

"Science is the pursuit of the unknown"

NEWSLETTER No. 1

May 1967

SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED
INCORPORATING

THE IVAN T. SANDERSON FOUNDATION

... For the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of
information on new discoveries in the natural sciences

THE IVAN T. SANDERSON FOUNDATION

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Registered 25th August, 1965, at the County Clerk's Office, Warren County,
New Jersey. Reg. No. 169571. Also registered in the Office of the Secretary
of State of New Jersey

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EDITORIAL

You've been wondering what's happened to us? This Newsletter, sent only to members, is our way of reporting to you now on what's been happening, what we've accomplished, and what we plan to do in the immediate future!

This Newsletter is obviously not intended to take the place of the quarterly publication, *Pursuit*, the first issue of which we had hoped to have out by now. We had at first, as you know, planned a rather modest publication, at least to start with, but your Board, who are almost to a man connected with publishing in one way or the other, felt that this quarterly, representing as it would our collective thinking, must be made effective enough to interest schools, libraries, and other institutions. We feel that a sufficient circulation can be assured, after the initial period, to cover the cost of a high quality publication which would have sufficient space for both articles and special features, in addition to serving as a forum for you, our members.

Costing and design on this project are proceeding, but it's been obvious for weeks now that we will not be able to get the first issue out on the date planned. Several factors have had to be taken into account. The organizational period became greatly prolonged, due to the extraordinarily ponderous legal procedures called for (as we found out, to our dismay) in setting up a non-profit organization, and notably in setting up the Trust. The time taken in pursuing these essential matters, apart from the normal demands on what remain of the one-time nine lives of our Director, has slowed everything down. In addition to which there is the problem that, despite the generous sponsorship and support of many of you, the funds available for publication are still not sufficient for what has been proposed.

Hence this Newsletter to you, our Members, to keep you informed - in this way - of our activities!

H.S.S.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

May I, to begin with, welcome all of you who are Charter Members of this Foundation, and thank you for your patience and understanding – patience and understanding because you are, all of you, friends of ours who share our interests and our belief in the need for the Ivan T. Sanderson Foundation! So may I clear up one matter?

The formalities involved in setting up an organization such as ours proved to be so complicated and long drawn out that our informational brochure almost became obsolete before we could mail it out. Charter Membership was originally conceived of as terminating at the end of 1966 but our thinking on this, as Desmond Slattery will tell you below, has changed. Our Treasurer asks me to point out that your initial "annual" subscription, if made in 1966, runs through to the end of 1967.

The Trust that the Sandersons have set up for the Foundation is composed of members scattered all over the country, while the Scientific Advisory Board's members are scattered (and I do not exaggerate, I assure you!) all over the world! The formalities entailed in the organization of both these Boards and of other details, have been handled by our Director almost single-handed. (I have known Ivan Sanderson for many years, but I have come to have a new understanding of him, and gained a somewhat awe-struck respect for his grasp of detail and his organizational know-how in all this.)

Our Library is being catalogued; plans for new buildings have been drawn up; and a tremendous workload is being coped with by our limited Volunteer staff. But – and this is what has slowed us up – just to obtain permission to complete a machine-shop and storage building on our – the Foundation's – land, took over three months of formalities!

All these "facts of life" (forecasting, no doubt, not only 1984 but 2084) have been an eye-opener to me. Those of you who live in this area will understand what we have had to cope with! Those of you who are abroad, like one friend who is on a two year expedition to what a mutual friend calls "the most disturbed part of Africa" (is there one that isn't?), will, I am certain, also understand and continue to work with us to build The Ivan T. Sanderson Foundation!

Oliver G. Swan

A NOTE FROM OUR PR MAN

Since assuming my position recently with the ITS Foundation, I have made a complete check of the membership files and related correspondence: and I have come to some conclusions.

First, the date for closing Charter-Membership was prematurely anticipated. Many members have suggested persons to be contacted having similar interests as ours, but time did not allow this, due either to more pressing matters, and/or to the difficulty of reaching people in such far-flung places. Therefore, I have suggested (and our Board has concurred in this) that Charter Membership should be kept open until the initial objective – i.e. the construction of the new Library Building – is an accomplished fact. — — — In view of this, it is my further suggestion that the designing and printing of Scrolls, Membership Cards, and such, be held up for the time being, and until such time as a more definite closing date for the build-schedule can be forecast.

Second, it has transpired that several Charter Members would like to organize local "Chapters" in certain key cities, where a program of activities could be established – such as regularly scheduled meetings, either for mere discussion or as formal seminars: to evolve collective endeavours in specific fields of mutual interest: and as regional organizations for fund-raising activities. It is my suggestion that these objectives be approached through normal channels, such as parties, benefits, dances and so forth.

Funds accumulated from such activities could be used by the local Chapter for rentals and payments to visiting speakers arranged by the Foundation. Ivan Sanderson would make himself available for such

visits in conjunction with local enthusiasts, or experts from elsewhere specializing in the particular matter on the agenda.

Consequently – and if these suggestions of mine find favor with the present Charter Membership – it would follow that those most interested should go to work and undertake the organizational details involved in forming such Chapters and bring this overall effort to the attention of their friends and all other interested parties. The central office of the Foundation will supply brochures and other literature to help expedite any such efforts.

It is my belief that the minimum membership for such a Chapter should be a dozen, while the maximum ought to be about fifty, beyond which point long experience has proved to me any such group loses its initial objective and becomes just an impersonal debating society.

I am anxious to hear from as many of you – Charter Members – as possible as to your reaction to these proposals, and I welcome any suggestions which might assist me in my efforts and help me “get this show on the road.”

Desmond Slattery

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AN ELABORATION OF INTERESTS

The membership of our organization has a very wide range of interests: covering, in fact, just about every facet of accumulated knowledge and most aspects of novel inquiry. The majority of our members, moreover, appear to be so catholic in their interests as to warrant the title of “universalists.” In other words, ours is an organization for the pooling of interests – be they professional or amateur, business or hobby. In fact, it is, as explained in our brochure, basically a data-collection center. However, the principal objective of what we call Collection is not just the mere acquisition of data and the accumulation of a library (which may be regarded as “static”). Rather, it is a dynamic enterprise, especially devised to facilitate an active interchange of ideas and facilities between members. Thus, it is actually the secondary interests of respondents that are given first attention.

As an example: while two geomorphologists will naturally correspond through a geomorphological society, one who happens to be an orchid-grower may not know that his only peer in this field is an insurance broker, holding degrees in chemistry, and living in another country. Putting two “specialists” of this nature and caliber in touch with each other is actually our most fundamental objective.

Our Evaluation of material is a filtering process, whereby, with advice from our Scientific Advisory Panel, the validity of the data received is assessed. In doing this, however, our organization has adopted a somewhat novel, and in some respects unique, attitude. While everything is assessed on what is commonly called “a scientific basis,” the parameters of the data so processed is much wider than is normally accepted for such consideration. It is our credo that “Science is the pursuit of the Unknown” and it is, therefore, the frontiers and borderlands of both recorded facts and of novel inquiry that are of primary interest to us. This should not, however, in any way be read to mean that we are not equally interested in any and all facts that are established. And to this end the Foundation maintains an as up-to-date as possible reference library in all fields of scientific endeavor.

Many new theories, as well as actual discoveries, are often regrettably ignored, either because of their unusual or “startling” aspects, or because of some apparent illogicality in their presentation. Likewise, a large number of both are never given proper consideration by specialists, on the grounds that, they were either propagated by specialists in other fields or were propounded by so-called (and usually scathingly) “amateurs.” Over the years, we have not infrequently found that sincere investigation of such discoveries, and a proper reading of such theories, by unbiased specialists in the field concerned, has brought to light extremely valuable information and/or ideas that would otherwise have been totally ignored. Nonetheless, our evaluation is based upon certain rather firm rules. This, first, involves their classification as either: –

- A. ESTABLISHED facts or theories that are 'generally' accepted as being explained.
- B. ACCEPTED facts that are not as yet 'explained,' and theories that are not yet completely accepted, but which do not conflict with established understanding.
- C. REPORTED facts and observations that can not be denied, but which are currently inexplicable, or which appear illogical, (i.e., the para-normal, but factual, phenomena).
- D. ALLEGED events, and theoretical explanations of same, and general hypotheses that are not as yet accepted, (i.e., the quasi-normal phenomena, such as para-psychology).
- E. OTHER: The purely mental exercises, such as ontology, religion, ethics, aesthetics, the mystical, occult, etc. Data in these fields is relayed to an affiliated organization, on a reciprocal basis, as we do not handle these departments of enquiry.

The second phase of our evaluation is to eliminate any items founded on obvious misinformation, and/or any demonstrably misinformed theorizing or erroneous reporting. This includes manifest hoaxes, deliberate frauds, outright mendacity, and just plain 'stupidity'! However, to avoid any denigration of any item just because it apparently displays one or more of these aspects, as thorough an investigation as possible is prosecuted. This we consider to be of the greatest importance, as a matter of policy, because experience has shown that, even in some cases of deliberate hoax, most valuable corollary data may be brought to light.

Our objectives in the Dissemination of the information received, and thus evaluated, are quite varied, and are as follows: -

- (1) INFORMATION, gathered from whatever sources, is made available to Members who apply for it specifically - by word of mouth, in writing, or on tape or film, if available
- (2) Similarly, PERSONAL CONTACTS are, as far as possible, arranged on behalf of such members who specifically apply, with any persons or institutions who might be able to aid them in their work or projected enterprises.
- (3) All ASSISTANCE possible is given members in organizing projects - such as expeditions abroad and field trips in this country. This includes basic prior research, the design and building (physical) of equipment, fund-raising, arrangements for transportation and overseas facilities, official diplomatic relations; and press, publicity, promotional, and other local 'relations.'
- (4) Foundation PUBLICATIONS include: (a) An incidental Newsletter, now issued on an irregular schedule, but serially numbered and dated. This is for the information of Members only, and covers current activities and objectives.

(b) A quarterly journal, to be entitled Pursuit (circa 32 pages to start with), containing a minimum of four lead articles, editorials, reviews, and a correspondents' forum. And, (c) The Newspaper THE ANIMAL WORLD, also (circa 32 pages), giving topical news (monthly) of all aspects of public, commercial, and scientific interest in zoology. This is designed as an educational forum, and is primarily for young people.

- (5) LECTURES, Seminars and Radio and Television exposures by members under authorization of the Foundation. (The business aspects of these activities are arranged individually with the Director, and then handled professionally by an Agency.)
- (6) FILMS: The Foundation owns a number of films and film-strips of items of interest to it. However, it also offers to handle footage made by members, both in the technical and production fields, and in distribution and sales. (Being a scientific and educational organization, we do not, of course, offer to disseminate any material commercially.)

So, finally, to answer the question that we are most often asked – to wit: "Just what are your interests?" This may perhaps best be answered by the purely taxonomic classification of knowledge herewith reproduced.

The classification of knowledge has exercised men's minds for millenia. Today it is of special concern and it falls into the bailiwick of what is called Library Science – which is to say the Data-Collection expertise. Herein, the computers have come to the aid of our previously most laborious and rather 'primitive' cataloguing methods. All these old methods have "broken-down" under the strain of the flood of new knowledge but, at the same time, the computers have elaborated the basic taxonomic structure to such a point of complexity that nobody, other than a specialist, can understand it. Therefore, we have gone back to a simplification of the whole business, covering all fields of knowledge. This, we have found is best expressed as follows:

- I. MATHEMATICS – The Structure and Behaviour of Mensuration. Number, Quantity, Probability, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Topology, the Theory of Games, and such related matters of calculation.
- II. COSMOLOGY – The Structure and Behaviour of Existence. Ontology, Metaphysics (classical), Space, Time, Locus, and such items of Coincidence.
- III. CHEMIPHYSICS – The Structure and Behaviour of Matter. Nucleonics, Chemistry, Physics (classical), Electrics, Electromagnetics, Magnetism, Mechanics, and related technologies such as Engineering, etc.
- IV. ASTRONOMY – The Structure and Behaviour of Gross Bodies. The Universe(s), Galactics, Stellar and Solar Astronomy, Planetology, Selenology, Meteoritics, Astrophysics, etc.

V. GEOLOGY – The Structure and Behaviour of the Earth. This includes everything connected with the Earth Sciences – Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, and Lithosphere – plus the sublithic core. Thus: meteorology, hydrology, glaciology, oceanology, geophysics and geomorphology, geology (classical), volcanology, seismology, petrology, mineralogy, etc. Also – geography, geodesy, mapping, dating, etc.

VI. BIOLOGY – The Structure and Behaviour of Animate Entities. These are the Life-Sciences (apart from mental expressions; including the Exobiology, as well as the life indigenous to this planet. It covers all life-forms, from the non-material to man; and embraces Protozoology, Botany, and Zoology; Histology, Physiology, and Anatomy, and human Physical Anthropology (i.e., man, physically, as an animal).

VII. ANTHROPOLOGY – The Structure and Behaviour of Manufacture. Archaeology, Pre-history, History, Ethnology, Sociology, Folklore (not Mythology), Philology, Economics and the Arts, Architecture, Agronomy, and other useful arts, and their related technologies.

VIII. MENTALOGY – The Structure and Behaviour of Intellect. Logic, Ethics, Aesthetics, Mythology and Religion; Psychology, Mysticism, and the Occult; Comparative Intelligence, etc.

Given this simplified framework, there is nothing that lacks a place. For practical purposes and use in our work, the key words are, of course, "Structure and Behaviour," and it is of first importance to ask oneself just what particular aspect of any item is of concern (to us) at the time. Thus, for example, in considering a "fall" of an unknown species of fish from a clear sky, is it the type of fish (zoological), the weather (geological), or the method of arrival of the fish (chemiphsical) that is of first concern? Obviously, it is the latter, since the weather is, in this case, purely negative, while the identification of the fish (specifically) is a purely secondary zoological matter. The event is the important aspect of the record; and this is a physical matter – i.e., it is concerned with the behaviour of matter.

While all topics included in the above chart are of interest to us – though often more so to individual members than to the organization as a whole – it is the three segments of Geology, Biology, and Anthropology – in which we are most particularly interested. It should be noted that Physical Anthropology – which is to say Man as a mammalian species, per se, and 'physically' – is a purely biological matter. On the other hand, all Man's "works" fall into the field of his endeavour of "manufacture." For this reason we maintain a library pertaining to these cultural (or "hardware") aspects of man's endeavour.

Ivan T. Sanderson

REPORT ON THE LIBRARY

At the present stage of our development, the single most important activity of the organization is the Library. This includes not only books but the Map collection, Bound Periodicals, Pamphlets and Separates, and Picture and Information Files. Work in and on the library is currently both bibliographic and purely mechanical and both these activities have to be carried on simultaneously. Also, they have been laid out on a short-term and long-term program.

I. The Short-term Program.

This has already been under way since the beginning of the year. It has entailed, first sorting and re-classifying all the material and the rebuilding of all shelving and filing facilities; second, the cataloguing of books and the transfer of loose material in files to ring binders. About three quarters (1500) of the hard-back books have been stamped, numbered, and entered in a standard library catalog, and also on two cards – by author, and by subject. So far, 40 Binders have been completed but this represents the contents of only one out of ten filing cabinets. The periodicals, separates, and maps have not yet been tackled. It is hoped that the Director's personal assistant may be able to devote part time to this work starting in June when the professional Librarian who has been cataloguing the books will have to be laid-off unless the special Fund set up by five of the Board Members is augmented. (We are indebted to Edna L. Currie, Hans Stefan Santesson, and Oliver G. Swan for initially endowing this small fund). The work has been undertaken by Mrs. Virginia Garety, and William S. Gibbs.

II. The Long-Term Program.

This has entailed the drawing of plans for a two-story, 60-ft by 30-ft fire-resistant building containing a fire-proof room for storage of the more valuable material. This building will also contain all facilities, a photo laboratory and processing room, three one-and-a-half-room suites for visiting members, reading rooms, offices, experimental kitchen, and large stock-room. Exact cost estimates are currently being worked out between our Deputy Director – who is himself in the construction business – and the various contractors. All furnishings have been priced, and the service companies have submitted estimates. More exact details will be reported in a later newsletter. Institutional money will primarily be sought to finance this project, and a proper professional fund-raising campaign launched when plans and estimates are completed, and a Presentation and a Model are on hand.

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The Foundation is authorized to contract with individuals, and industrial, scientific, and other institutions to undertake specific projects. If requested by Sponsors, special provisions may be made for representation on the Scientific Advisory Board for the duration of the contract. Certain facilities and services are available to all members through correspondence, or by pre-arranged visit to the research center. Nominal charges are made to cover the costs of retrieval, copying, and dispatch of material. Non-members may obtain such services only under specific contracts, negotiated on an individual basis. All communications with the Foundation must be made in writing. Purely business correspondence should be addressed to the Business office. All requests and applications should be as specific as possible.

"Science is the pursuit of the unknown"

NEWSLETTER No. 2

March 1968

The Society For The Investigation Of The Unexplained

Incorporating

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Walter J. McGraw	Radio, Films and Television (b)
John A. Keel	Field Investigations (b)
Susan A. Brown	Assistant to the Director and Manager
Andrew A. Guthrie	News and Special Events
Nevett S. Bartow	Arts and the Humanities
William F. Peck	Science and Technology

EDITORIAL

The actualities and practicalities of our affairs are laid forth by our President in the column opposite. This has been a "peculiar" year, to say the least! However, now that we have at last legally changed our name, we can – and propose – to push onward with our plans. From a publicational, which is to say the disseminational, point of view, this means the following.

The NEWSLETTER has been expanded, and it may be so even further. It's intent is to bring to you, our members, factual information on our organization, our activities, and our intentions. Nothing more.

Our 'magazine', PURSUIT, is, as the jargon has it, "laid-out"; and negotiations for the resuscitation of our newspaper "THE ANIMAL WORLD" are now totally ensnarled in the usual, and normal, complexities of legalities and official inefficiency.

Meantime, we have come to the conclusion that the Newsletter is the best way to keep in touch with our members. I might add that these newsletters will, if issued more often, also take some of the load off our Director, who has a 'genius' for starting-up hares! Honestly: that mail!

For the rest I, as Editor, would just like to point out that we now have in these NEWSLETTERS a medium for relaying just what is going on. There is much; and it is up to me as your Editor to get over to you the most salient points. We've got a "Lion by its tail"; and, if it goes on this way, our Deputy is going to be a very busy man! Meaning simply that the library – which is under my aegis – is literally spilling out of the doors of all our buildings.

So help me; we have got "something" by the tail. Greetings!

MATTERS OF POLICY

It had been hoped that three further issues of this Newsletter would be published last year. However, the most extraordinary succession of events took place that, at one point, very nearly brought our activities to a dead stop. Viewing the activities of the (now) Society to some extent from the outside, as I am not actively engaged in its routine work, I several times found myself somewhat appalled by just what is today required of a body of citizens trying to establish such an organization as ours.

First of all, it took two years to lay the groundwork, set up a framework for our enterprise, and test it with innumerable adjustments, and at the same time comply with the law. No sooner had the last been achieved — and this entailed complying with all manner of Federal, State, and County requirements — than something came to light that more or less nullified all these long-drawn-out efforts. In point of fact, it transpired that neither our promotional people nor, more so, Ivan Sanderson himself, could do anything on behalf of our organization as then named. As one potential sponsor put it: "I could raise the money for your new building in no time if only Sanderson were dead!"

The point was that foundations are normally thought of as being set up to give away money, so that it was impertinent to solicit funds. Nor did the fact that the Sanderson Estate had deeded property make it any less embarrassing to the Sandersons when trying to raise funds to carry on the routine work and to get the new library established. The result was that, by unanimous vote, the Board approved a change of name. But then, all the legal processes had to be reworked: and no sooner was this done, that another 'bolt' came out of the blue.

The Sandersons were suddenly informed that the Township in which the land they deeded to the (then) Foundation disallowed the division of their property for that purpose. The grounds given were that they — the Township — had never given their permission; but this despite the fact that all legal requirements in this respect had been complied with two years previously by our legal counsel! Further legal search was made, but it transpired that, indeed, the local ordinances of a mere township transcend county, State and even some Federal injunctions! (The matter proved to have been tested in the Supreme Court)

As a result, your Board voted to return the land to the Sanderson Estate in return for a 99-year lease at the minimum of \$1.00 (one dollar) per annum. This was duly regularized, but it then further transpired that the lease had to be on a year-to-year basis; otherwise it would still infringe the "division of property" clauses in the local ordinances! No sooner were the papers for this drawn up than something else hit us that constituted a personal but very real tragedy for one of our officers — our Secretary, Edna L. Currie.

Fire struck; and in half an hour, completely "cleaned her out". Curiously, the only thing saved — by a fireman, incidentally — was a set of papers for the society which she had received from Legal Counsel for processing in New York in conjunction with myself, as President. (These papers were soaked and had to be dried, ironed, and reprinted, as a matter of fact!)

In view of what has, nonetheless, been accomplished and initiated, I take a very optimistic view of our future. There is much to be done, and physical help is our sorest need. However, the routine seems somehow to get done, and an increasing number of our members have really been pitching-in — and in all manner of ways, from funds to manual labor. I am not suggesting a "five-year-plan", but we are still in the building stage that any organization has to go through before it can make the first "big push". And that, of course, is the new Library Building. This is going to take money; but, while we have all the plans drawn and approved, we have to demonstrate that we are properly and legally established before we proceed. It seems to me, and Legal Counsel concurs in this, that we are now at that point. I feel that this Newsletter demonstrates that fact.

Oliver G. Swan
President

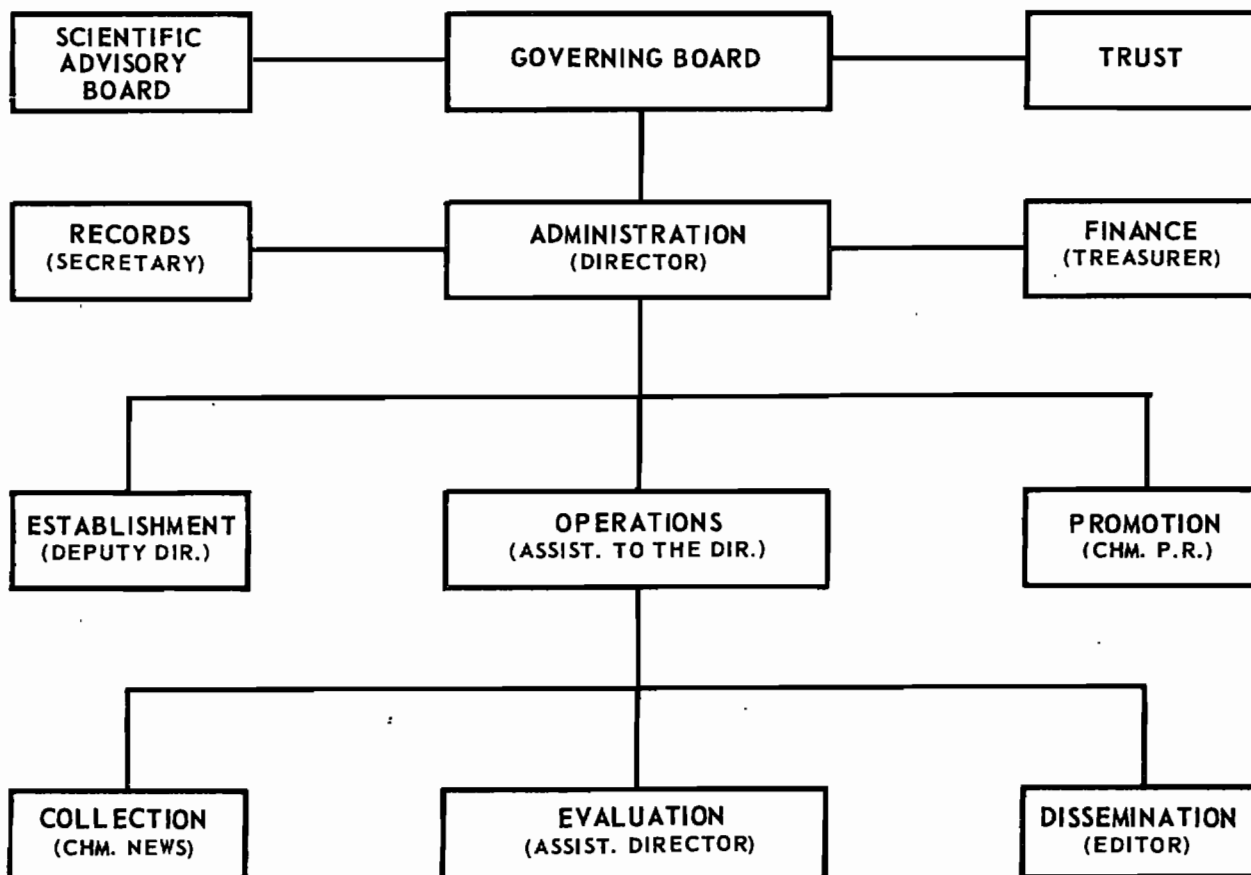
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

(1) General

Over the years now, we have been constantly organizing and reorganizing. This is an evolutionary process and, however much it may aggravate our members, has to be gone through. It has resulted from time to time, and many times, in the issuance of a revised chart of duties, responsibilities, and "order of command" as it were. By practical experience we have now discovered that this is the way (as shown in the Chart below) our affairs actually work; and how the officers -- through their personal expertizes -- concerned with each of the departments also function.

Above all, in all this, we have aimed at streamlining and simplicity. If we are going to prosecute the work in which we are mutually interested, and in a competent manner, we have to have those officers and operatives therein listed. To a considerable extent the Law also so requires. The Board discusses and sets policy; the Scientific Advisory Board pronounces upon our work; the Trust is set up to handle our overall financial affairs; and the Officers take charge of the various specialized aspects of collection, evaluation, and dissemination of the material we handle.

Be it clearly understood that, this being an entirely voluntary outfit, those sitting on the Board, accepting responsibility as Officers, or participating in any particular effort, and the permanent staff may, and do, change quite frequently. As to just who is handling what at this time may be ascertained from the list of the Board and Officers given on the masthead of this Newsletter.



(2) Membership

Membership in our Society was initially conceived as an 'open' invitation. We had no idea at the outset just how many people shared mutual interests with us; how many might want to join us; or, whether we could offer any real services or gain any real help. We have learned a lot during the past two years, and notably that there appear to be an awful lot of Fortean "lying around". This has resulted in somewhat of a paradox. We have done what we can to get organized on a solid legal basis but, as Charles Fort himself once said: "Don't wish for anything too much -- you just might get it"! The result has been somewhat terrifying. It is like the Law of Diminishing Returns -- but backwards.

On the one hand, material is pouring in at an ever-increasing rate; on the other hand, we are bursting at the (physical) seams; the cataloguing and the answering of the correspondence is falling increasingly behind schedule; and, despite new mechanical aids, we are ever less able to comply with the requests of members -- the very duty we set ourselves up to perform. As a result, we are discussing the possibility of having to limit membership; at least until, and unless, we get the new library built and further permanent, paid staff employed and trained. As of now, a thousand regular-paying Subscribing Members would just about cover the basic routine costs; but not any staff! And, unfortunately, such staff has to be of not only a high, but of a very much higher, caliber in order to cope with what we do. (Mere secretarial help is difficult enough to get; and in this area it also has to be maintained.) Our members all have their own businesses to take care of, so that voluntary help can only be incidental. The work has to go on continuously; otherwise we will not and cannot perform our function. Hence the paradox.

In this secondary initial stage we have to be "sponsored". This is to some degree being achieved -- but nothing is ever certain until it is proven; and this means cash on the line! Meantime, an enhanced membership of all classes is still more than just desirable. If it "overflows" as it were, it will doubtless adjust itself in due course, and for normal and obvious reasons.

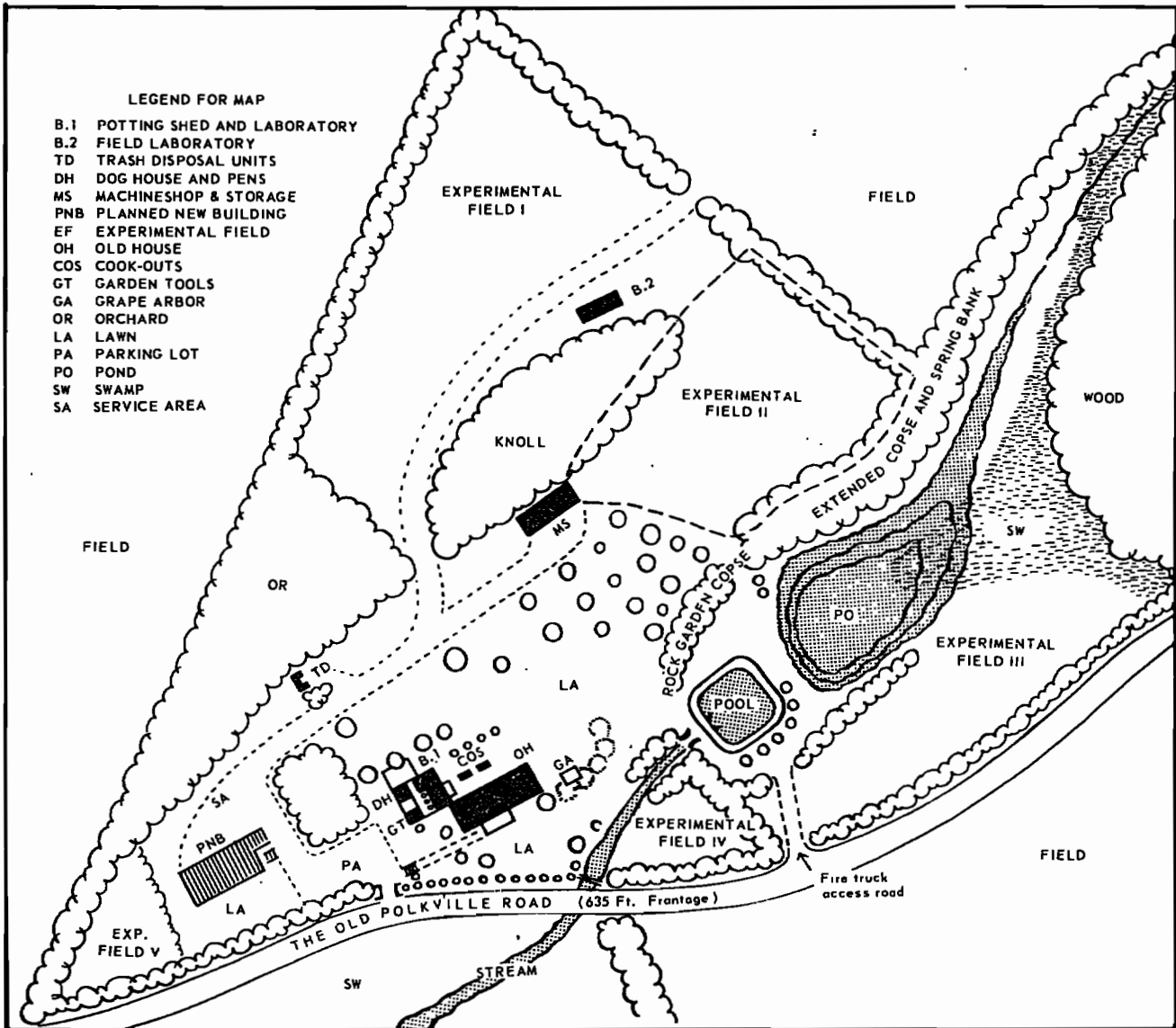
Alma V. Sanderson

(3) Establishment

Our most outstanding need as of now is, of course, more space. This does not mean 'land'. We have plenty of that already; and the Sandersons have more adjacent that we could rent if necessary. The real trouble is "housing space" for our library, files, and other accumulated materials that are our "life-blood" -- and your property, incidentally. The whole business of our Establishment devolves upon me, and is my sole responsibility. So, herewith, we display a survey map of the Society's land, buildings, and other physical properties. I would like to explain this in more detail because we are in the midst of a whole series of moves, and innovations, that are vital to our very existence as of the moment.

Existing buildings consist of: -- (a) the old, (230-year-old), double-storied house with an attached, single-storey, four-room bungalow. (b) a 60-ft. by 24-ft. concrete, one-storey, building marked "M.S." on the accompanying map -- which is not yet fully completed but which houses our machine-shop and several tons of stored materials that are of considerable value. (c) Two, 36-ft. by 10-ft. city buses of sprung-steel construction, fitted out as potting-sheds, laboratories, and workrooms for biological research. (d) sundry service items, such as trash and garbage disposal units, cookouts, dog-pens and houses, woodsheds, and a garden-tool storage. Physically, also, there are five "experimental fields" for botanical purposes; a controlled swamp pond; and an 80 x 80 foot "swimming" pool. There are four acres of lawn, with ornamental and fruit trees; an ample parking lot for some twenty cars; two orchards; and a stream that can be damned for pisciculture.

We then have also the site for the new Library Building (see Map, marked "P.N.B."). Plans and diagrams for this are already drawn up, and detailed arrangements have been made for power, light, phone, and other essential services. This project will be reported upon in further detail in our next Newsletter; together with an (artist's conception type) sketch, and floor plans and elevations. This unit, designed to be 60' x 30' and of two storeys, will cost, when fully equipped and furnished, approximately \$70,000 at current rates. It is designed to include, as well as the library and files, a conference room, offices, an experimental kitchen, a photographic darkroom and lab, a sound-studio, and three living-quarter units plus other facilities for members.



As of now, the floor has to be finished in the "M.S." building; plus wiring, heat and other facilities installed therein, and the whole building sealed and lined. This work, which was started last year, will be completed this spring. Meantime, the attic in the Old House is being sealed and lined and set-up as a subsidiary library storage space. This is approximately 30' x 20', with a central peaked-roof about seven feet high. This work entails flooring, walling, and ceiling, and attention to trimming at both ends where there are old-fashioned windows. This new space should take care of the books that are as of now stored in a basement. This latter is needed for expansion of storage space. But nothing can be done until the spring when the frost is out of the ground and the spring mud has dried up so that we can get a concrete-mixer up onto the land.

At that time also some additional landscaping is planned, while tree-planting will be renewed with the help of the State conservation people. It is my first duty, however, to try to provide new space for the Society's properties. This -- and quite apart from the new building -- needs money. At the same time, really enormous savings can be made, as they have in the past, if members will volunteer their help as planners, designers, technicians, or just plain "laborers". We have built practically all that we have with our own hands and on just such a voluntary basis. There is no reason why we cannot complete the job this way.

Edgar O. Schoenenberger
Deputy Director

(4) Promotion

"Promoting" a Foundation sounds rather repellent; but promoting a Society and its legitimate aims is something quite else. The whole concept of "promotion" is but one of three related enterprises — namely: Promotion, Publicity, and Public Relations. Let me take these in reverse.

P.R. means just that; i.e., to try to relate the activities of the Organization to the Public — in other words, explain its activities to non-members; see that the members know just what we are doing; and finally, to try to keep everybody, as far as is possible, happy!.

The second effort — i.e. Publicity, means also just that: — to wit, to inform the public just who we are, what we have done, what we stand for, and what our objectives are. This requires frank but tactful, and rather personal relations with news and other mass-media. "Publicity" can be a "two-edged sword". Anybody can sell "a bill-of-goods" to anybody; but the Press and these other mass media are both professionals and they are wise. They cannot be (and should not be) fooled. To the contrary, they should be supplied with the facts, and straight. They should be aided in every way possible in obtaining what they want. There are too many kooks, krooks, and krakpats around anyway, and the working press does not have the time to fool with these. We do not "go out" for publicity; but we welcome any that may be given us — provided it is on legitimate grounds. Better that we should remain unknown than that we should dish out trash. We have a lot to offer, so let us make it available — but only if it is requested.

Finally we come to the matter of Promotion. This is of another ilk, but here again, the word means just what it says. We have to promote our organization, or it will, indeed, languish. There is nothing wrong or even snide about this. But, once again, it is how we promote it that matters. There are several ways of doing this.

Frankly, we believe that the best way to do it in a case such as ours, is to ask — simply, honestly, and straightforwardly — for help. If what we are trying to do has any validity, any who might be similarly-minded might respond to our appeals. If they are not interested, any plea we might make would be both worthless and obnoxious. To promote our ideas, we must present them — clearly, simply, and as far as possible in toto.

Indeed, we are selling a "product"; but it is not a manufactured item; it is facts, though perhaps of rather an unusual nature. And to "sell" facts, we've just got to get our facts straight. Given such an approach, what we are trying to promote should promote itself. How to do this is a straightforward technical matter. And luckily, we happen to have quite a roster of longterm professional experts in the field of promotion — and in news, radio, TV, and other media.

To tell the public what we have done; are striving to do, and hope to achieve in the future, via these media, is perfectly legitimate. This we have done and shall continue to do. If we fail to get together and produce concrete results, said media will be losing a very great deal of material that is not otherwise available. What we have to offer is very definitely of considerable popular interest currently. Let us, therefore, say so, and thus promote our mutual interests.

(5) Routine

Undoubtedly our greatest achievement last year — if it can be called such — was to keep up with the correspondence! Progress was made in the reclassification of the files, the informational material being removed from actual filing-cabinets to large ring-binders. This procedure is by no means completed and, while not as yet a losing battle, has definitely become a rearguard action in that the volume of new material coming in is increasing progressively, while the time available to us to prosecute this work is diminishing due to both the increase in correspondence and the number of members. The cataloging of the hardback books in the library was completed in June of last year, and the two hundred odd new additions were duly carded. Since no volunteer has shown up yet who might be willing to tackle the pamphlets, and the soft-cover collection, and/or the map collection, and since the society was at the moment not in a position to hire professional help, all that could be done was to sort this material and to classify it.

During the past year a considerable amount of time — and I would estimate averaging two out of a seven day week — was spent on other than paper work. Over 200 interested parties visited Research HQ; members

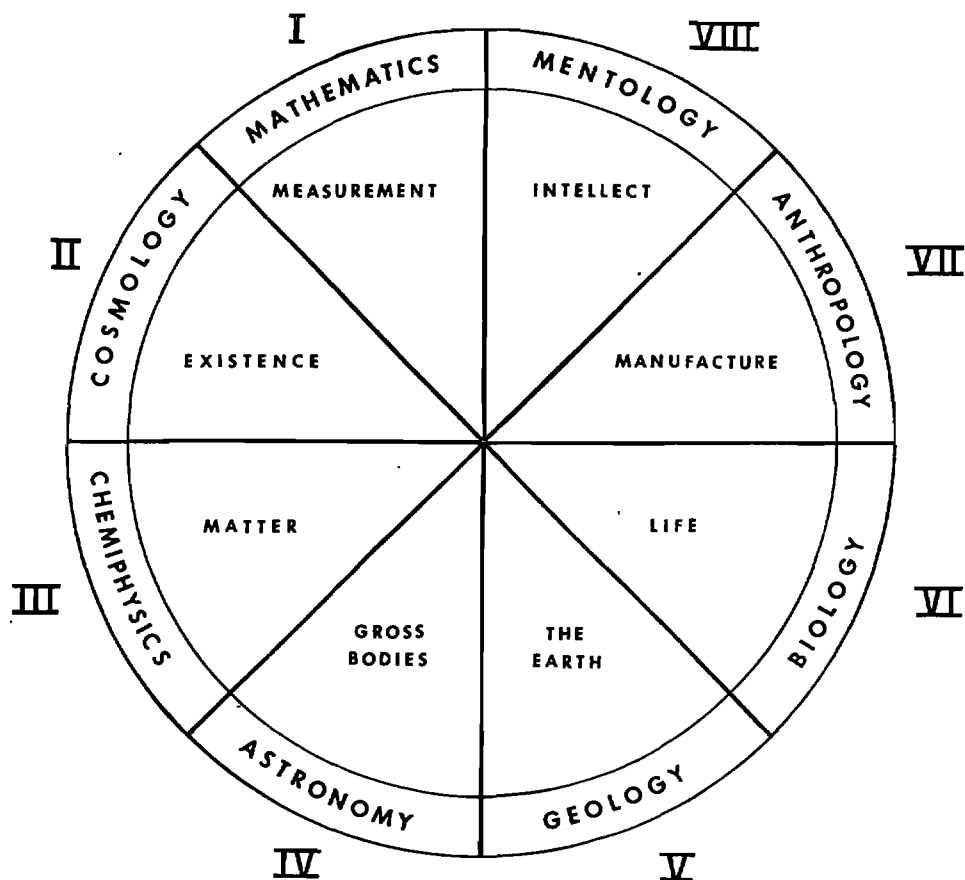
staying over night ran to almost the same number; two dozen interviews and radio-taped shows on the Society and various of its activities were done at both HQ and in the New York business office; and six Board and special meetings were called.

The permanent staff at HQ has, however, also the responsibility for maintaining the property (physically), the society's transport and communications, and so forth. This takes a great deal of time, and specially during the summer since eight acres of only partially developed garden and orchard land in the deep country requires a lot of attention. Then, I also estimate that at least 20% of our waking hours -- not just working hours -- are spent on the telephone. There have been days when one or the other of us has been on this "infernal machine" (literally) from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm; and there is now the added "aggravation" that news-stories are coming in from literally all over the world, irrespective of the time-zone differentials, so that even the midnight to 8:00 am slot is not infrequently liable also to being most "disturbed"!

Jack A. Ullrich

OPERATIONS

In our first Newsletter we layed out the classification of knowledge that we use in our analyses and for the purpose of filing. Actually, while we know this framework by heart, we have a simple chart of it pinned on the office wall and all our members and many other visitors who have seen it have asked for a copy. Therefore, we decided the best thing to do was to reproduce it in the next Newsletter, and as large as possible, so that those interested can write in subdivisions and other specialities in the appropriate segments. Just why this thing came out as a wheel or why it is numbered counter-clockwise I have never been able to discover, but all I can tell you is that when we once tried numbering the sections clockwise everybody became confused. It must be something to do with that dubious "art" called psychology!



It is interesting to note that in sub-dividing the eight major categories, the old Dewey Decimal System -- per se -- may be applied but not, of course, his headings as they are hopelessly out of date and in a very high percentage of cases quite out of place. However, we have found -- and again I cannot explain how or why -- that a duodecimal breakdown is much preferable. By this I do not mean adding two-digits (in the form of new symbols) between 9 and 10 so making our current 12, the new "10". (For the mathematics of the true Duodecimal System, members should apply to THE DUODECIMAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 20 Carlton Place, Staten Island 4, New York). What we mean is, that by inserting a starting Category numbered "0"(zero) for that infernal class of items that is ever present and can only be called "GENERAL", and allowing for 12 sub-divisions as well, the material can be broken down into either four or three or multiples of same, which is extremely useful.

As a matter of fact, it's a great pity that we did not evolve with six fingers on each hand since we would then have learned instinctively to calculate in twelves and if we could learn to do so now we would bring upon ourselves the blessings of every bookkeeper, accountant, stock exchange, and just about everybody else having anything to do with money. Just think of getting rid of those ridiculous and in point of fact not strictly accurate "33,1/3.rds" and "66.66%". However, I do not advocate an attempt to multiply and divide in the duodecimal system -- unless you are a born mathematical wizard!

.....

As an aside, I would like to take this opportunity of presenting another lost cause which has always been of greatest interest to me and, it now transpires, to many of our members. This is the sort of thing that we are interested in; and probably because it smacks of real as opposed to concocted logic. I refer to the famous "Thirteen Month Calendar". Once again, pity the poor accountants. To put it in the proverbial nutshell: --

There being 365 days (ignore leap years for now) in the year, and everybody being a "lost cause" on New Year's Day anyway and for obvious reasons, one could break down the remaining 364 days into 13 months of precisely four (seven day) weeks each. All could start on say a Monday and end with the usual faze-out on Sunday. Calculating wages and all other disbursements and receipts would be immeasurably simplified, calculating machines could cost less, and we would even be able really to use the "no 'R' in the month" for the serving of oysters; but that is another (biological) story!

The idea is to set aside the 365th day as a universal and international holiday; and please note it would be concurrent with a Sunday so making a still better "holiday". Further, every four years one would get a second unnumbered "day off", and at a better time, astronomically speaking to boot. It is interesting to note that several things like radio and tv program cycles are already calculated on a 13-week basis. The number '13' is really very useful since, as we pointed out above, it allows for that difficult category "General". How about general accounting in the 13th Month, and all tax cycles starting on the 1st January?

Susan A. Brown

ON COLLECTING

We brought up the above two matters to point up the fact that, while we are primarily interested in Segments V, VI, and VII of the Wheel, we are more than happy to receive selected material on all oddities, enigmas, and paradoxes. We have many members who are primarily interested in Nos. I to IV, and we have consultants in these fields of the highest caliber to whom items falling therein can be referred. Only category VIII is completely without our competence, and anything of this nature that comes to us is passed on to Walter J. McGraw who has specialized therein and built a very fine modern library pertaining to it.

Under the general heading of "collecting", we should explain that we do not mean only the collecting of printed or taped material or written reports. We cover in this aspect of our operations also field work and not only of a reportorial nature. Actual physical specimens are also more than welcome; and ranging all the way from animals, plants, and minerals to individual oddities, artefacts and even some so-called "antiques". We do not have a museum though some space for such of a modest nature to house really valuable items is provided for in the new building. Perhaps later, after that is established a true Museum might be envisaged. However, in the meantime and unless otherwise specified by the donor, such material is periodically -- about once a year -- presented to appropriate scientific or other institutions.

Peter G. Kamitchis

ON PROJECTS

Under this general heading comes another type of enterprise. This is projects, and these are probably of even greater use to our membership than is the supply of information. It is also a major part of the Society's work because it entails analysis, planning, and usually a lot of straight managerial work. And, it is extraordinary the variety of propositions that have come to us since we got organized; and the magnitude of many of them. I would just like to say a few words on just what we can do in this respect. Let me take an hypothetical example.

Mr. A. writes to us, saying that he is deeply interested in such and such a subject and asks for further information. We write back, sending one of our explanatory brochures and any other material we have available, and explaining as tactfully as possible the situation; namely, that the material we have is now Society property, and that we (personally) just do not have the time to comply with all the requests we receive, even if we were permitted to hand out Society property. Should Mr. A. be further interested, he writes us again and sends in an ordinary, Corresponding Membership subscription, with a detailed request. If this means merely answering some queries by mail, the matter is expedited with (as the saying goes) the greatest possible dispatch. If, however, it entails extensive search through our files or any original research, we list the requirements and assess the cost of said research, with copying charges. Full projects such as this can be undertaken only for the next category of members -- called The One Hundred -- or for Sponsors; or for outside organizations under contract.

If then we still agree mutually to continue with the project, arrangements are made for the initiator(s) to visit Research HQ., under the understanding that sufficient time will be made available by them there to do a lot of reading and research, and to visit whatever scientific or other institutions might be needed to obtain the final information they need. Once all such arrangements have been made on behalf of the Member(s), a contract is drawn up between them and the Society. This is to cover out-of-pocket expenses, and to assure that the Society, for its part, receives due compensation for its efforts -- as a tax deductible contribution to its expenses. At the same time, the matter of Promotion -- or "Dissemination" -- of any results of the then joint project, is ironed out and written into said contract.

The Society has very considerable facilities for so promoting genuine efforts of this nature in the fields in which it has contacts, information, and influence. This work involves a great deal of planning, the expenditure of much time and, it should be noted, the introduction of the parties concerned to the contacts and "outlets" that have been built up painstakingly and at a very considerable cost by the founding members of the Society. This is actually the most valuable "property" that the Society has to offer its members and, in return for it, those so aided are asked to arrange that appropriate funds be made available to the Society to carry on its activities, and extend its operation.

It is therefore our request that all of you -- Members and potentially interested parties -- write us at any time and on any subject that you will. We will do what we can, within the terms of reference outlined above. If we don't have the answers you want immediately available here, we will do all we can to get them answered by the appropriate expert who is associated with us in that particular field. Failing even this, we will tell you frankly that we cannot help. If we can turn up what you need, and that you cannot find elsewhere, we will somehow "get together" and go to work, as we have now done with several dozen individuals and groups.

ON FUTURE PROCEDURE

It is hoped that we have now concluded the necessary explanation of who and what we are, and of what we have been doing. From now on, it is our intent to change the pattern by substituting a somewhat different format for the Newsletter. While we will continue to report on current activities at the policy level, and the various administrative levels, we intend to open the major part of our space to a forum for the interchange of queries, ideas, and answers to questions posed by our members. Current correspondence and other communications could fill a letter such as this several times a month, so we will have to be considerably selective. Also, and most regrettably, we will have to be rather brief.

The obvious, and logical answer to these restrictions is the initiation of a proper magazine such as we have envisioned in PURSUIT, wherein full and proper treatment could be given to as many original (and so often unique) reports and happenings as come to us. However, like Rome....and by endless other cliches....only time will show on this count. This is, indeed, but a news "letter", and the best means we have at the moment for keeping in touch.

However, while asking you once again to be patient on account of not seeing your particular project mentioned as yet, we urge you to keep the material coming, and to unload your questions on us. We have several dozen projects on hand that we would like to publish as of now, but space does not allow. It is only by such a free exchange of ideas that we can hope to accomplish our aim; and by so accomplishing it, we may both ease the load and achieve some worthwhile results.

Ivan T. Sanderson

ON PUBLICATIONS

During the past months a new, and perhaps novel, idea has built itself up to a point of possible usefulness to the Society, to its members, and possibly to others. This has come to be quite unprovoked and unsolicited, and we believe that it has merit. Your views on this would be more than welcome. We refer to the contents of the back cover of this issue.

A very high proportion of our members appear to be writers; and they further appear to be most prolific! At the same time, many members keep asking us for information on both the publications of our members and of others whose works are of particular interest to them. At the same time, quite a number of publishers have begun to come to us, asking for cooperation in disseminating information about articles and books that they are publishing and which might be of special interest to our members. Acting on behalf of the Society, I have endeavored to comply with these requests in various ways, and in return the publishers have begun to reciprocate with material such as that enclosed on our member, Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans, whose forthcoming book so many of you have enquired about.

Today it is not "easy" to obtain books, simply because of the mere volume published every year. The authors cannot supply them, either from purely physical considerations, because of certain ethical guidelines, or for both reasons. The publishers at the same time are finding it increasingly difficult to handle individual orders. Bookstores are regrettably few and far between in this great country, and the distributors and jobbers are inundated with new titles. If any bookstore, even the largest, ordered only half a dozen copies of all the 'good' hardback books published each year in this country alone, they would have to expand their stores to city-block dimensions. And when it comes to paperbacks, pocket-books, magazines and other serials and journals, the volume becomes overwhelming.

Being in both the writing and publishing business, it is my considered opinion that the best way to obtain a book that you wish specifically is to place a written order with your nearest bookstore where you are known or have an account. It may take time, but this is the retailer's business and he can and probably will obtain the book much more quickly than you can through any other channel. Don't write to us as we are a non-profit organization and cannot therefore retail, or still less wholesale, any product; also we don't have the time, staff, or the money to obtain, package, and mail anything; and quite apart from the billing process. Order direct from the publishers only if they solicit this in the releases that we will be sending you, or if so advertised in our list

Hans Stefan Santesson

ANNOUNCEMENTS .

(This is not a paid Advertisement)

Over the years, and now ever increasingly, both members and friends who are potential members have been asking us for information on current books in print on fortan subjects, and of the status of known forthcoming books. We have now made arrangements with several publishers to give us advance information on the latter, and to supply us with sample "Fliers" announcing them. We propose to list such books on this page in each issue of the NEWSLETTER, and will also send to you copies of these Fliers along with these. The procedure from then on is explained in the column on the previous page on "Publications".

- Allen, Tom, (1965). *The Quest: A Report on Extraterrestrial Life*. Philadelphia: Chilton Books.
- Bloecher, Ted, (1967). *Report on the UFO Wave of 1947 (Apply to us)*
- Dinsdale, Tim, (1966). *The Leviathans*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- (1961). *Loch Ness Monster*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- Gaddis, Vincent, (1965). *Invisible Horizons*. Philadelphia: Chilton Books.
- (1967). *Mysterious Fires and Lights*. New York: David Mc Kay Co., Inc.
- Hallet, Jean-Pierre, (1967). *Animal Kitabu*. New York: Random House.
- Lorenzen, Coral and Jim, (1967). *Flying Saucer Occupants*. New York: Signet Books.
- Patterson, Roger, (1966). *Do Abominable Snowmen of America Really Exist?* Yakima Washington: Franklin Press.
- Sanderson, Ivan T., (1967, 4th Printing). *Abominable Snowmen: A Legend Come to Life*. Philadelphia: Chilton Books.
- (1967). *"Things"*. New York: Pyramid Books.
- (1967). *Uninvited Visitors: A biologist looks at UFO's*. New York: Cowles Education Corp.
- Steiger, Brad, (1966). *ESP: Your Sixth Sense*. New York: Award Books.
- (1966). *World of the Weird*. New York: Belmont Books.

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FORTHCOMING BOOKS

- Earley, George, (Fall of 1968). *Encounters with Aliens: Science Fiction and UFOs*. (tentative title). Los Angeles: Sherbourne Press.
- Heuvelmans, Bernard, (June, 1968). *In the Wake of the Sea-Serpents*. New York: Hill & Wang, Inc.
- Holiday, Ted, (Fall of 1968). *The Great Orm: A practical inquiry into the nature and habits of Freshwater Monsters*. (tentative title). New York: W. W. Norton

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The Foundation is authorized to contract with individuals, and industrial, scientific, and other institutions to undertake specific projects. If requested by Sponsors, special provisions may be made for representation on the Scientific Advisory Board for the duration of the contract. Certain facilities and services are available to all members through correspondence, or by pre-arranged visit to the research center. Nominal charges are made to cover the costs of retrieval, copying, and dispatch of material. Non-members may obtain such services only under specific contracts, negotiated on an individual basis. All communications with the Foundation must be made in writing. Purely business correspondence should be addressed to the Business office. All requests and applications should be as specific as possible.

"Science is the pursuit of the unknown"

PURSUIT

Incorporating

NEWSLETTER No. 3

June 1968

OF

**The Society For The Investigation
Of The Unexplained**

... For the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of
information on new discoveries in the natural sciences

THE SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Registered 25th August, 1965, at the County Clerk's Office, Warren County,
New Jersey. Reg. No. 169571. Also registered in the Office of the Secretary
of State of New Jersey

Research Center

R.D., Columbia, New Jersey 07832
Telephone: (201) 496-4366
Overseas Cables: ITSUS, USA

Business Office

325 West 45th Street, N. Y., N. Y. 10036
Telephone: (212) 246-0430
Overseas Cables: ITSUS, USA

*All contributions to the Society are tax exempt,
pursuant to the United States Internal Revenue Code.*

The Governing Board and Officers :

Oliver G. Swan	President, and Chairman of the Board (b)
Ivan T. Sanderson	Vice President and Director (b)
Edgar O. Schoenenberger	Deputy Director and Establishment (b)
Peter G. Kamitchis	Assistant Director and Research (b)
Alma V. Sanderson	Treasurer and Membership (b)
Edna L. Currie	Secretary and Records (b)
Jack A. Ullrich	Promotion and Fund Raising (b)
Hans Stefan Santesson	Managing Editor (b)
Walter J. McGraw	Radio, Films and Television (b)
John A. Keel	Field Investigations (b)
William F. Peck	Science and Technology (b)
Andrew A. Guthrie	News and Special Events
Nevett S. Bartow	Arts and the Humanities
Marion S. Fawcett	Assistant to the Director

MEMBERSHIP

The Charter period was self-terminating on the 31st of January of this year. No increase in the annual subscription to Corresponding Members is envisaged at this time. All subscriptions are renewable on or before the 31st of December, 1968.

Corresponding (Services and privileges outlined in Brochure)	\$ 10.00
Visiting (The Committee of One Hundred)	100.00
Sponsors (Individual, Corporate, or Institutional)	1000.00 (or more)
Honorary (For specialist or meritorious services)	(Life)

No application form required, but a Biographical sketch would be appreciated.

* * * * *

The Foundation is authorized to contract with individuals, and industrial, scientific, and other institutions to undertake specific projects. If requested by Sponsors, special provisions may be made for representation on the Scientific Advisory Board for the duration of the contract. Certain facilities and services are available to all members through correspondence, or by pre-arranged visit to the research center. Nominal charges are made to cover the costs of retrieval, copying, and dispatch of material. Non-members may obtain such services only under specific contracts, negotiated on an individual basis. All communications with the Foundation must be made in writing. Purely business correspondence should be addressed to the Business office. All requests and applications should be as specific as possible.

EDITORIAL

Now that the organizational phase of our establishment seems to be tailing off, if not over, we are able to relieve the policy makers of the chores they have handled so manfully. In future, only major policy decisions that affect the Society as a whole will be reported in the Newsletter; details will be left to the Board to wrangle over at their quarterly meetings. So, it is now time for some editorializing:

One salient point currently protrudes from the heap of effort that has gone into the building of our organization. This is that not only the potential members, but not a few of our charter members appear to be under a complete misapprehension as to our primary objectives. This is probably a matter of mere semantics, although these objectives were very carefully spelled out in our initial Brochure. The core of the trouble is, we feel, a misinterpretation and misuse of the word "research" (in the current world), and notably in the Anglo-Saxon-speaking world.

This word means just what it says; to wit, re-searching through what is already known. It is a process of collation and analysis, and has nothing whatsoever to do with science which, as our motto proclaims and all dictionaries define, is the pursuit of, or SEARCH for, the Unknown. Research is a technological exercise and has no more identity with search or collection than it does with the publication or dissemination of information. Hence the very clear statement of our objectives as being "The Collection (search), Evaluation (re-search), and Dissemination (publication) of INFORMATION".

The word "research" has today become synonymous with all aspects of investigation and not by any means only in the fields of science; and it conjures up visions of teams of people in white coats inhabiting vast, sterile buildings filled with bottles and buttons; for so many hours, so many days a week. And this is a very fair appraisal of the bottle-washers and button-pushers at that! The misconception referred to above is undoubtedly due to this purely semantic muddle. Let it be reiterated, therefore, that we are not a 'research' organization either in its true sense exclusively, or in this mistaken sense generally. We are a data collection outfit that analyses and evaluates ITEMS, and then endeavours to publish its finding.

The other side of our corporate coin is logically the obverse of "services rendered"; i.e. "requests made". Since we are a corporate body, our very existence is predicated on a quid pro quo. What the Society needs is as constant and voluminous a flow of information as possible on all the subjects that we deal in, and any others that you think we ought to become interested in.

And so; just what are we interested in?

The answer is really very simple — to wit, Everything! However, we specialize in the natural sciences, and notably the geological, biological, and anthropological fields (see Chart p.8. of NEWSLETTER No.2. March, 1968). Everything and anything of an informational nature is welcome within this wide range of knowledge; even established facts being of great value to our library, and thus to our evaluation work. However, it is the as yet non-established facts (see p.5. of NEWSLETTER No.1.) that interest us most and which, in the world of pragmatism, have come to be known as Fortean: and, if you want an exposition of what this means, I must even at the risk of being accused of self-advertisement refer you to the last chapter of a paperback book entitled "THINGS", published by Pyramid Books of New York in November, 1967.

We should also stress (again) that we do not file, attempt to assess, or publish an category E. (on page 5 of Newsletter No.1.), which is to say the aesthetic, ethical, religious, mystical, accult, and related subjects. Nevertheless, day by day, it is becoming increasingly difficult to draw the line between these and both the established (accepted) and the non-established (fortean), and notably in such fields as the mechanics of thought, EMI-effects on living entities, hypnosis, and so forth, so that selected material in these borderline departments are welcome. But, let us decide on which side of this hazy line they fall, as of now; and then, if they still seem to us, to be "beyond the pale", we will pass them on to our associate, Walter J. McGraw who has specialized in such matters for many years and built up a remarkable, selected and selective library in these fields.

Finally let us stress the fact that what we offer and try to provide are, primarily, individual services as described above, rather than massive impersonal publications which aspire to cover everything and yet cannot find space to discuss any one properly.

Ivan T. Sanderson
Director

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Despite the perhaps seemingly haphazard procedure at the center, as seen by non-visiting members from outside, we are working to a longterm master plan which was laid down when we originally incorporated, two years ago. This is twofold; first a (physical) building program, which is supervised and reported upon by the Deputy Director; and, second, what is essentially a bibliographic procedure. A third category – namely Special Projects – was initially allotted some permanent place in the time-budget because this most essential feature of our whole effort could not just be declined during the organizational period.

The theme of the office work, as opposed to the building plan, was and is to sort, classify, weed out (dross), and catalogue all the material we have on hand. This meant tackling some 5000 books; a large number of periodicals; some fifty feet of shelving, holding pamphlets, booklets, and 'separates'; seven filing cabinets of informational material; four of correspondence; and two of pictures; and over a thousand maps. So far, the books are completed, and very considerable inroads into the informational files have been made, while the correspondence files have been finished except for some secondary gleaning.

At the same time, we have managed to keep up with the routine work and current operations. This means mostly correspondence and the filing of reports, clips, tearsheets and other information that we receive. This is our life-blood but it is a much greater chore than most of you may realize. For instance, we ran over 6000 letters on the "Patterson Affair" (described below). Further, material comes in from all over the world in all languages and even "scripts". This has to be translated, and our translation service, while very good, is extremely expensive, especially when it comes to non-European languages. Sometimes we hit real problems such as some very valuable material printed in the Cyrillic (Russian, primarily) script but which defied our translators. It turned out to be in Georgian!

(2) Special Projects: Our second most time-consuming administrative job is the reception at HQ of members planning expeditions, trips, or research projects. These stay at HQ until they have read all we have on their speciality, made a list of contacts they wish to visit to fill out their needed information, and to discuss their whole procedure. The assistance we can give is really in three parts, which are in precise accord with our major objectives; namely, to aid them in planning the physical equipment for their forthcoming work, to study maps, and then to obtain from us letters of introduction; second, to actually research the facts as known; and, third, to plan subsequent dissemination of information on their project. This last has led us to an innovation in our organization, namely: –

(3) Promotion: together with Publicity and straight Public Relations. No less than ten of our Charter Members, Board Members, and/or Officers happen to be lifelong experts in these fields, and all of them have, during the past two years, put an enormous amount of time and energy into the promotion of our organization. However, it has transpired that such professional approach is of no avail to us, and in our case defeats itself. Our objectives are just not amenable to the normal professional procedure.

Having discovered this from actual, practical experience, we came to the conclusion that we would, primarily, have to undertake the initiation of all these three essential aspects of our work, and then employ a professional to carry through each project on an individual basis. We now, therefore, plan all of this (simultaneously with the other planning with visiting members); make the initial contacts and arrangements – for radio and tv appearances, publication and so forth – and then turn the "leg-work" over to our man in New York who has the facilities, the "in", and the time to follow up our leads, make final arrangements, and "see the thing through". To this end we have been able to acquire the voluntary services of Mr. Terence A. Roberts, a free-lance public relations man with long professional experience. (We pay only his out of pocket expenses).

As a result of this arrangement, there is no necessity to issue separate reports on the activities of this department. All that is done in these fields will appear in the general reports of "Current Events" that, from now on, will comprise the major part of the Newsletters.

(4) Another administrative responsibility is, in point of fact, maintenance of the physical properties of the Society, since the Deputy Director is not resident at HQ. This occupies a very considerable percentage of the staff's time in that there is an unending routine of work, which must be kept up with the year round. This work has been maintained.

Marion S. Fawcett
Assistant to Director

MEMBERSHIP

Perhaps naturally, I am constantly being asked how many members we now have. Unfortunately, this question cannot be answered precisely at any one instant as the number changes daily, and we have even begun to receive the sad news that there have been deaths among our charter members. Nonetheless, I am prepared to say that, as of the time of writing (16th April, 1968) we have about 400 members of all categories. Membership as a whole has had to be taken over by my department for purely mechanical reasons, since the Membership Secretary has to be physically resident where the finances are handled, and this is impossible for any of our other Officers because, this being a voluntary outfit, all are fully employed elsewhere.

The categories and terms of membership are listed on page 2 of this Newsletter, with a note as to expiry dates. A few words of explanation of this are called for. There are four main categories of membership: - (1) Corresponding, which means just that; namely, that they have access to information and help by correspondence and/or by prior written request to visit HQ but at their own expense vis-a-vis living (in nearby motels or such). (2) Visiting Members, otherwise called the Committee of One Hundred, who wish to stay at HQ for longer periods to avail themselves of facilities other than mere information (see above, under Administration). (3) Sponsors, either individuals, or corporation and institutional. These are of course offered all facilities at all times and, in the case of the latter, they may as stated in our terms of incorporation, request a seat on the Scientific Advisory Board for the duration of any contract they sign with the Society. (4) Honorary Members. This last category is confined to those who have actually rendered the Society professional aid and assistance and who express their willingness to continue to do so in some specialized field.

Finally, while renewal date for subscriptions is now set for the end of 1968, the Cards of those joining from June of this year will not expire until the end of 1969. Will you please check your Membership Cards and see that the date, either printed or written in, conforms to this new ruling.

Alma V. Sanderson
Treasurer

ESTABLISHMENT

This is to be partly a Report and partly an Exposition. Let me dispose of the first as quickly as possible. It involves three separate issues: -

(1) General Maintenance. This has been outlined in the report from the Assistant to the Director. I may add only that some more very essential tree-trimming has been done, and the culverts between the two ponds cleared (of muskrat enterprises) and re-set.

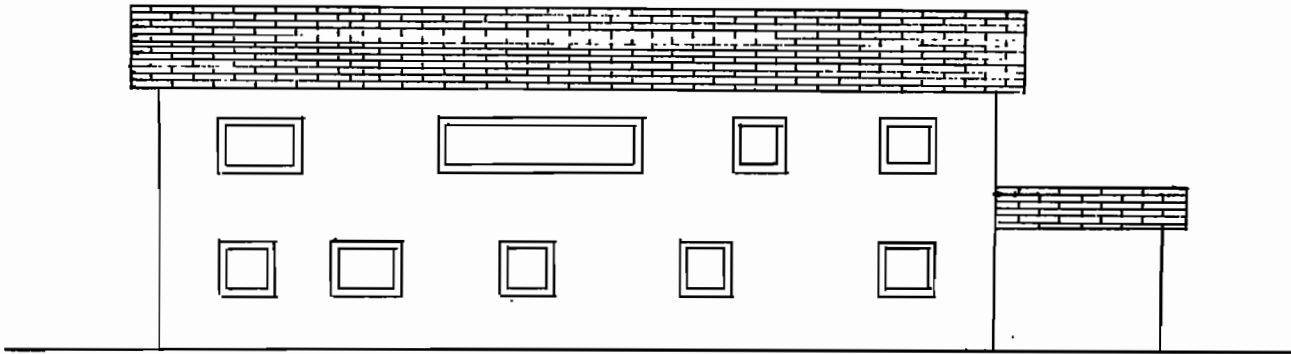
(2) The Old House. All floors have been sanded, the joints filled, and repainted. All passageways have been repainted, and the office has been renovated with all bookshelves rebuilt. Two-thirds of the outside has been repainted, the roof repaired, and the dogpens repaired. Since the entire house is now filled, including the basement, and the new "concrete" still not completed, it was decided to line the attic. This work will have to be undertaken very shortly.

(3) The 'Concrete': As previously reported, this could not be finished last year due to early frosts. It is two-thirds completed and it has been decided to line only the 20' x 20' room, and make it into a bed-sitting-room-office, with a library extension, heat, light, sink-water, drainage, and all other living facilities. The other part - 40' x 20' - being already half full of stored items, will merely be weatherproofed but not sealed.

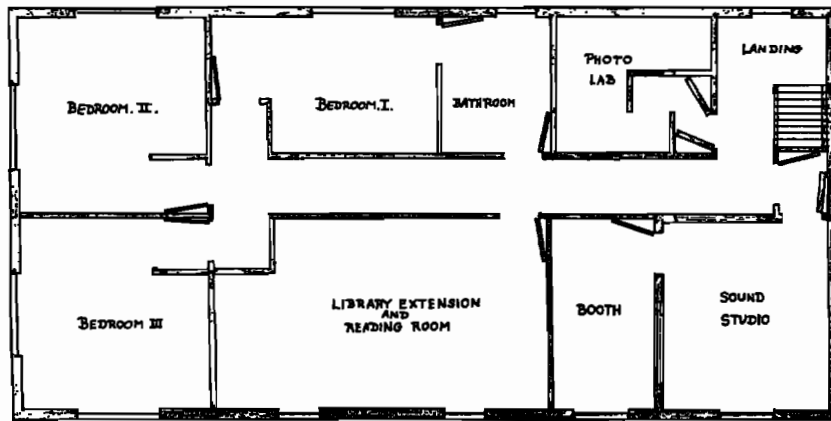
The major matter upon which I wish to report is the so-called 'New Library Building'. This has been mentioned repeatedly before, and it is now time that we lay before you our plans. These will be seen, in the rough, on the next page. Proper architects' plans are being drawn, and detailed cost estimates prepared. This, however, is a long drawn out and somewhat costly process as this building is fairly large and somewhat complicated. These simple diagrams on the next page should speak for themselves, especially with the accompanying 'Explanation'.

There are good reasons for each of the contained units shown - such as offices, stockroom, library-conference-room, fireproof storage, photographic darkroom, sound-studio, and living quarters, etc. The general appearance of the proposed building (see Fig. 1., top of next page - elevation, east face) is designed to conform with the Old Building (see Photograph, top page 7.) and thus with the average appearance of local country dwellings. The rather tall peaked roof will provide very desirable storage space for the future. Construction is conceived as being of sprung steel and prefab concrete; windows and doors of aluminum; concrete floors; and as little flammable material as possible.

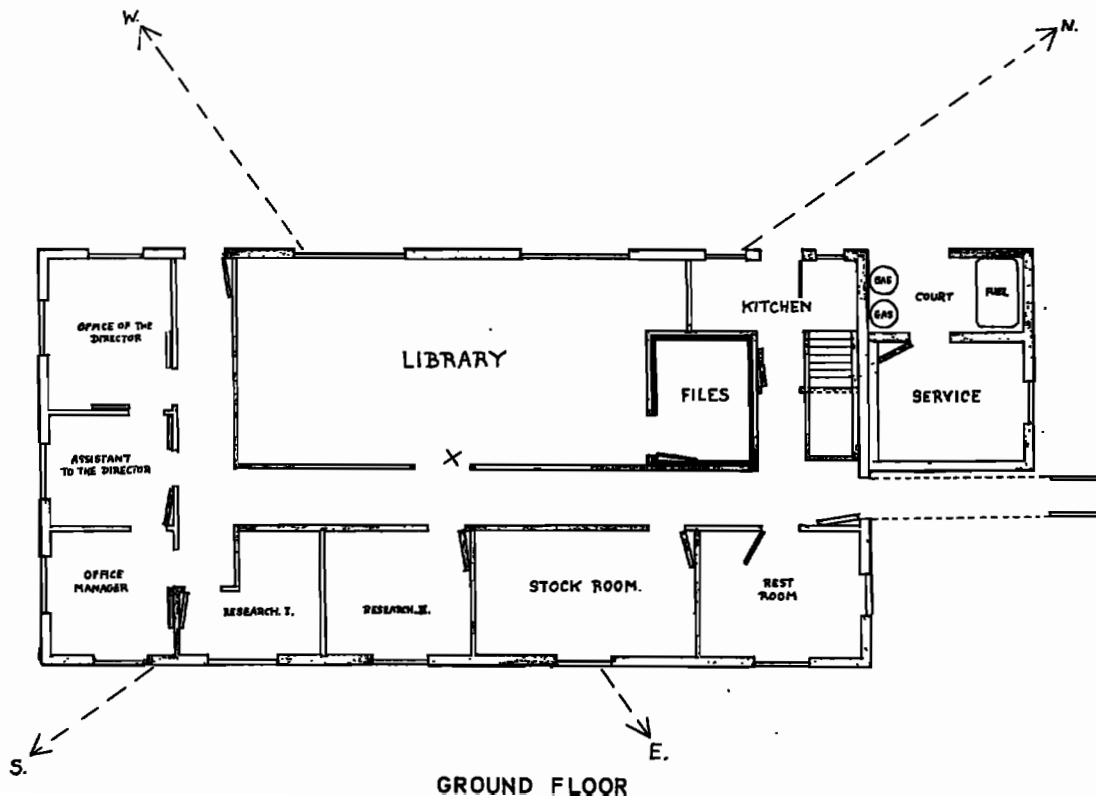
Edgar O. Schoenenberger
Deputy Director



ELEVATION - EAST FROM



UPPER FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

EXPLANATION



THE OLD HOUSE -- EAST-FACING ELEVATION
(to scale)

EXPLANATION

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| B.R. | - Bathroom |
| B.S.R. | - Bed-Sitting-Rooms |
| C. | - Closet |
| C.B. | - Control Booth |
| E.K. | - Experimental Kitchen |
| E.O. | - Executive Offices |
| F.F.R. | - Fireproof Filing Room |
| L.C.R. | - Library Conference Room |
| L.E.R.R. | - Library Extension Reading Room |
| P.L. | - Photographic Laboratory |
| R.O. | - Research Offices |
| R.R. | - Rest Room |
| S.R. | - Stock Room |
| R.S.R. | - Roofed Service Room |
| S.S. | - Sound Studio |

The Bed-Sitting-Rooms are designed to accomodate a workdesk so that visitors may retire from the daily office racket. The executive offices will contain the private reference libraries of the operatives and have space for other books in use; the Research Offices will be similarly equipped. The Experimental Kitchen will be fully equipped for both testing the exotic herbs grown on the land, and also for the general purposes of residents. All first editions, and unique material in files, will be stored in a locked, fully fire-proof room, as shown; specifications will be to insurance requirements. The main Library is sufficiently large to accomodate the twenty who attend Baard Meetings. The upstairs Library Extension will be carpeted and furnished as a comfortable reading room, with full sound insulation. The Photographic Laboratory will be fully equipped for both still and motion-picture processing. The Stock Room will also house all reproducing machinery, copying, binding, etc. The Sound Studio and Control Booth (audio) will also house the Tape Collection, in fireproof, hermetically sealed racks. The Rest Room, downstairs, will have a full-sized bath and shower; toilet, basins and dressing table, and a couch. This will be a "Ladies Room only". The Service room will have an entrance into the main building under the stairs -- not shown in diagram.

CURRENT EVENTS

Our principal reason for incorporating was the establishment of a medium for the exchange of information and ideas, and to assist those of like interests. The first necessity is therefore the creation of such a medium. Until now, during the organizational phases of our establishment, there has been no time or place for this, as every hour devoted, and every scrap of space available to us has had to be given over to wrestling with interminable legalities and formalities. Now, at long last, we are able, tentatively, to initiate a proper informational outlet.

The NEWSLETTER — and evermore of it from now on -- will be devoted to what may be called "news and views". To these columns we welcome all manner of communications: — questions, original reports, worthwhile bibliographical and other references, comment, replies to queries, and inside stories of events. Also, we propose to introduce and evaluate other organizations and their publications; and we will appraise and review books, informally, as news items. Both communications from and appraisals of non-affiliated organizations are also welcome

THE PATTERSON AFFAIR

The most outstanding event in the fortean field during the past six months, and potentially one of the most important ever to have occurred, was the obtaining of 30-feet of 16mm, standard, non-professional, color film of a very large hairy Hominid, by Roger L. Patterson (92) * and a friend Bob Gimlin, in Del Norte County of northern California, in October last. This story has been published in ARGOSY Magazine in two articles — the February and April issues of this year — and aired on innumerable television and radio shows, both network and local, and including several of the biggest shows, like Alan Burke, Joe Pyne, et alii. The best summation of the whole story was, however, written by Bob Kirkpatrick, the Executive Editor of NATIONAL WILDLIFE and published in his own magazine, Volume 6. No. 3, April-May, 1968 issue. This is already almost a collector's item and we urge all of you who are interested in this business of ABSMs to write for a back copy — to National Wildlife Membership Services, 381 West Center Street, Marion, Ohio (43302).

But none of this airing has told the real story behind the story; a story that will be all too familiar to old-time forteans but which still should be disseminated. All the old "blocks" arose and many of the old "gimmicks" were unleashed, and by the whole gamut of orthodoxies. The treatment of Roger Patterson personally only missed that normally meted out to 'pioneers' by a hair's breadth. Frankly, we — the working members of our society — were, as Roger has very generously stated, solely responsible for the fact that the wipe (see Charles Fort for definition) although started and well under way was halted before it gathered too much momentum, so that he did finally get a proper hearing. All he was "robbed of" was reimbursement for the time and money he had spent during the past eight years on this enterprise, which has virtually bankrupted him; since the "value" of any one such picture as he obtained had been priced at a positively enormous sum ten years ago. And this story should be placed on the record.

I personally (I.T.S.) was present in a suite at the Ambassador Hotel in New York occupied by my late friend Tom Slick, the Texas multimillionaire oil and cattle man, owner of Slick Airlines and the founder of the largest privately backed Scientific Institute in the world and who had spent many years pursuing ABSMs, all the way from the original Abominable Snowmen of the Himalayas to the pigmy Orang Pendek of Sumatra, the Sasquatches of Canada and these Ohmahs or Bigfeet of California; when two senior executives of one of our leading news magazines offered him (officially and in the presence of five witnesses; one of them C. V. Wood who built Disneyland for Walt) \$500,000 for the first photograph of any ABSM, dead or alive, that could not be proved a fake.

What actually happened in the Patterson Case was that a mutual friend — Jim McClarin (81) — rang me (ITS) late one night from California to say that word had come out that Roger had obtained some film of a Bigfoot and was on his way to have it processed. He requested help in handling matters which we immediately promised, and we then started laying on all possible scientific, commercial, and publicity outlets. However, we heard nothing further for over three weeks, when HQ got a phone call from Roger from New York. We were down there in two hours, having alerted LOOK Magazine, and met Charlie Crandall, their Picture Editor, in the hotel, and then got together with Roger Patterson, his brother-in-law, Al DeAtley, and a Hollywood agent who had come east with them.

LIFE had viewed the film at a private showing for scientists in Canada — since no Americans would look

* Members mentioned in these Newsletters will be indicated and identified by their card numbers, so that their addresses may be obtained from us.

at it — and had paid the party's passages to New York and made a dozen 'out-takes' of the best frames from the film. We wanted LOOK to see these and the film in case LIFE decided to relinquish their option, which is just what they did. We also went to our old friend Milt Machlin, Editor of ARGOSY, an ex-newsman, a live wire, and seriousminded. (We did not go to TRUE because they had 'muffed' the last story we offered them — i. e. the first copy of the Royal Airforce's analysis of the Tim Dinsdale film of a Loch Ness Monster, which they had proved to be genuine — by sitting on it for three weeks when it was the hottest topical news item on the docket). LOOK were very impressed but could not do anything on ethical grounds until LIFE had come to a decision.

Next day, LIFE took Roger and Al with the film to the American Museum of Natural History where a showing was put on for some of the scientific staff, notably Dr. van Gelder Head of the Department of Mammals and Dr. Shapiro of Anthropology. The wire services were permitted to view but the owners were excluded and within fifteen minutes the "scientists" announced that "It is not kosher (a funny word to use for a spokesman of a scientific organization) because it is impossible". Upon this, LIFE washed their hands of the whole thing and LOOK followed suit on the grounds that if the AMNH said it was a phoney, it was. At this point we pounced; and contract was signed between the owners and Mr. Hal Steeger, publisher of ARGOSY, late that night. We then went to work to round up some other scientists and notably physical anthropologists.

The results are fully recorded in the first ARGOSY piece. The film was flown down to Prof. W. C. Osman Hill (62) at the Yerkes Primate Center, Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia, and then Drs. John Napier (170), Vladimir Markotic (78) and others viewed it at a closed showing in Washington at which Dr. A. Joseph Wraight (128) Chief Geographer to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and Mr. N. O. Wood Jr., Director of Operations for the Secretary of the Interior were present. A copy of the film was then handed to Dr. Napier of the Primate Biology Division of the Smithsonian for detailed analysis, a work that is of the time of writing still in the process of being executed. Meanwhile Roger Patterson and Al DeAtley had returned to the Coast, and then the next phase of this saga began.

They were invited to Hollywood — at their own expense, I might add — and kept there for no less than seven weeks 'negotiating' with all manner of high-falootin' outfits, all of whom were talking in six figures about making an hour-and-a-half documentary, incorporating Roger's 'strip', of the whole Bigfoot story. They asked a year to make it, with a camera crew and director on Patterson's expedition for which he was trying to raise money. As is usual with Hollywood, not one g-d thing happened and not one single penny was even put into escrow by way of an option.

Finally, Roger rang me and asked what we might be able to do. I asked him whether he might be prepared to make over foreign rights to us, and he did so. We made one phone call to David Attenborough the head of the Second Program — Science and Natural History — of the B.B.C. in London and within 24 hours their Senior Producer, Ronald Webster was with me in New York. It took two weeks only to negotiate and sign contract for first-run rights in the U.K. and Commonwealth, and a generous participation in foreign sales to be handled by the BBC. Roger retained and still retains all North American rights. Two weeks later Ron Webster went to work with an extraordinary crew — Chicago Films Inc. (Gavin McFadyen and Charter Weeks) — and within two weeks, despite the "city revolution", finished the film and flew home over the North Pole with several tens of thousands of feet of film in the can.

While here the BBC filmed Roger Patterson at HQ, and then shot several hours of a discussion between Dr. John Napier and the writer (ITS), with visuals in the form of plaster casts of the footprints of Bigfeet. Later, they ran an hour on Dr. Joe Wraight in Washington, D. C., then flew to Denver to interview Prof. George A. Agogino (2); then on to Dr. Montagna, Head of the Oregon Primate Center; and ended up with interviews with several persons, of all ages and walks of life, on the Coast who had told Roger that they had encountered Bigfeet at close range. It will take two to three months to edit this film but it will then be aired in Europe, and LIFE INTERNATIONAL have opted to publish an article on the story simultaneously:

That there is very great interest in this throughout the rest of the world was exemplified by a half-hour telephone call we had from Moscow. This was from the Editor of AROUND THE WORLD, the Russian equivalent of LIFE, and Dr. Boris F. Porshnev, Professor of History at the Russian Academy of Sciences who has been actively investigating ABSMs for over a decade.

This is the status of the story as of now. A copy of the BBC Documentary, enclosing several runs of Patterson's 'strip' is being given to Roger for private showing in this country and for sale to TV or other out-

lets. It is rather amusing, but typical of such 'incidents', that all the networks here, several independents, some film companies, and a host of agents are now scrambling for an exclusive first showing here. Thus, we have avoided the 'wipe' and maybe saved the scientific discovery of the age, but there is a long way to go yet. A film is not conclusive proof of the existence of anything. Only a dead or stunned specimen, or a skull, will prove the matter and convince the scientists and other sceptics. Roger has to get back into the field to obtain such. Meantime, we know of no less than nine other seriousminded and in some cases fully financed outfits that are going into the field this spring.

The funny thing about this case is that the topnotch scientists most deeply concerned with the speciality are taking it very seriously. Further, most of these scientists are government employed, and both the Canadian and American Governments themselves are deeply interested. This is something quite new in fortean endeavour.

GIANT "ARMADILLO"?

This is a classic example of another type of affair only too wellknown to forteans. When something crops up like Patterson's film which catches popular fancy and is shown and talked about on television shows that reach over a million people, orthodoxies can but apply the "wipe". If, on the other hand, the item does not get initial mass exposure, less onerous rules are applied. These may be summed up by the two cliches "Kill by Silence" and "Masterful Inactivity" but, if there is still a 'leak', straight ridicule or the other old maxim; "They could not interpret what they saw" is applied. But things get sticky for the "Status-Quo-Boys" when the thing was identified by persons they themselves regard as "scientists" and "experts"; and it becomes for them positively gooey if said item is actually obtained, physically. Their only remaining weapon then is deliberate suppression of any and all publication of the matter. Sometimes luck is on their side in doing this, since some of these discoveries are made by foreigners (and often by non-anglos) and "of course" nobody can trust a word any foreigner says, more especially Latin Americans, Indians, or any other "natives"! This is a very effective tool in the hands of the Establishment for, to give one example, even UNESCO can not get funds for the translation of publications of leading foreign scientists; vide the works of Ramos on Phoenician petroglyphs in the Amazon Basin. This item is thus a 'glorious' example of the "note but ignore" technique.

It was brought to our attention by a correspondent, Mr. Michael J. Shields of Muncie, Indiana, who gave us a reference to a most extraordinary little five-line squib in "Life Sciences Notes" of the 7th October, 1967 issue of SCIENCE NEWS. (Note: this letter was received on the 26th March of this year.) One of our Scientific Advisory Board, Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans (58) of Paris, had heard rumours of this about Xmas time and asked us to investigate, but the location and even the country of discovery that he had been given proved to be inaccurate. Frankly, we put the whole thing down to mere rumour because of its really bizarre aspects. Which only goes to show the effectiveness of the "kill by silence" routine. However, somebody (and very fortunately) goofed, and the thing leaked into a scientific journal. Then, the inexorable process so beloved of the orthodox (and often to their own detriment!) got under way, and it filtered through the censor's screen and got into this popular publication of the AAAS; though admittedly in a fully debased form, calculated to make even a potential believer scoff. It read as follows (in toto) : -

Mammalogy

"One ton Armadillo caught.

Argentinian naturalists clashed with 2,200 pounds of armadillo and won. A male giant armadillo, three feet tall and six and a half feet long, is the first of his species captured in 25 years. Until he was sighted recently, scientists thought the breed was extinct." (ends)

I have seen some grotesque rubbish spouted in print over the years but this comes as near being a classic of misrepresentation as I have ever encountered. Let us begin at the top.

First, as usual, no names, dates, or location. Second, nothing on what happened at the time of capture or subsequently. Where did the object go; was it dead or alive; who handled it and/or received it? Next, the Giant Armadilla (Priodontes giganteus) is a fairly common animal throughout an enormous range in South America and really very common in some areas. Therefore, any person calling himself a zoologist who "thought" the species to have been extinct is either a clown or an idiot.

Next, just what does "three feet tall" mean? Squatting, as most armadillos do most of the time, or standing

up on its rather long legs as the Giant does most of the time? If the latter, three feet is just about standard for a fullgrown specimen - I know, I have owned many and took the first pair to our National Zoo in Washington in 1953. Then, "six and half feet long": does this mean what we call 'H&B' which means "head and body", or does it include the tail? If the latter, once again, it is perfectly normal for Prionodontes. So, OK, it's a Giant Armadillo found far away from its natural environment, which is moist equatorial rain forest, in an area where such creatures were thought to have been extinct since the forests there were cleared. This is all perfectly fine but unfortunately such a creature weighs when full-grown only about 250-pounds, and the maximum that I know of weighed just under 300 lbs. Once again, I observe that "You can't have it both ways, boys."

Mike Shields went on to give us some very interesting facts, as follows, and I quote: -

"It also seems unlikely that there could be confusion as to the systems of measurement. The length measurements of the Latin countries are the metro, the vara, and the pied (pee-aid). The metro, of course, is roughly 39 inches, and the vara is likewise close to a yard in length. The pied is, unsurprisingly, one-third of a vara.

"If height and length were given in metros or varas, and not properly converted to feet, then the beast would have to be larger rather than smaller than indicated.

"If given in pienes, it would be almost exactly correct if translated 'feet' which is the literal translation. As far as I know, all weight measurements in Latin America today are in gramas and kilogramas.

"2200 gramas (grams) would be only about 4 pounds and would hardly refer to a giant armadillo, while 2200 kilograms would be 4840 pounds and would mean the beast was underrated."

The point is, if this animal was three feet tall standing up and six feet overall - i.e. H&B, plus tail - it would be a standard model, and the only interesting thing about it would be that it was caught in Cordoba Province where indeed it was thought to be extinct. What is more, you can't have just one animal cropping up after twenty-five years even if it individually can live that long: there must be parents and mates and youngsters, as with Lake Monsters, et al.

In view of all these doubts, contradictions, and lack of proper information, we went to work on the telephone, working by dint of some truly monumental effort in two languages (I fear me, my Mexican type Spanish is neither appreciated nor understood in Argentina:) down a long list of mammalogists at the Museo Nacional de La Plata, and the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Cientificas y Technicas, in Buenos Aires, as well as the Zoo there. As of the time of writing we have not got any definitive answers to our questions but we have certainly stirred up a veritable "hornets' nest" of activity and, if we do get anything concrete before going to press, we will pull some other item and report on this.

But why all the excitement? Well, as we all know there were armadillo-like creatures that must have weighed well over a ton, if not two tons, inhabiting the open country of southern South America until at least the arrival of the Amerindian peoples. These are collectively known as the Glyptodonts, which term covers several dozen species of half a dozen quite distinct types, the most popular of which is known as Doedicurus that had a regular "mace" at the end of its tail. Related forms had more simple tapering tails, with or without spikes and spines, and some had simple sheaths like ordinary armadillos. What we are asking is: If this creature that was captured did weigh a ton (or two) and had a simple tail, could it not still be a Glyptodont rather than just a Prionodontes a thousand miles out of place?

If it is a Glyptodont it brings up many other fascinating things, notably that Dr. Heuvelmans has for years been saying that such creatures may still exist. What is more, he and others believe that they were fossorial animals that tunneled through the loose pampas earth in search of their food; and there are more than a few stories of people seeing trees in a line swaying violently and even going up and down when there was no wind and all the other trees remained completely at rest!

We would welcome a living Glyptodont. The Coelocanth fish is running a bit dry since one of our leading ichthyologists issued the classic statement some time back that: "We expected it to turn up sooner or later, as it is a deepwater fish". The same guy had said exactly ten years before, and almost to the day anent the first specimen caught, that it must be a fake or a case of mistaken identity because: "All Coelocanths have been extinct for 70,000,000 years."

THE CONDON COMMITTEE

Ever since its inception, this enterprise has been the subject to all manner of misinterpretations, misgivings, and misconceptions. Some of the second category may have been legitimate, but not so much because

of the 'official' cloak this committee wears, which is always suspect to many, as to the specialist expertizes of the majority of its members. Initially, almost everybody seems to have agreed that both officialdom and the public were lucky in that Dr. Condon, per se, was willing to undertake this most rickety responsibility because of both his high standing and his reputation for a no-nonsense approach. It was the selection of his team that prompted the first misgivings.

At the time of its inception -- the 1st of November, 1966 -- just about everybody, 'believers' and 'disbelievers' alike, and of all persuasions, were firmly convinced that the problem was a purely physical one, be it plasma-balls, swamp-gas, or even "machines" from outer space as some contended. While Dr. Condon himself was manifestly more than capable of handling the purely (both classic and nuclear) physical aspects of the problem, almost everybody -- except the rocketry buffs -- confidently expected to see the Chairman coopt the most highly expert services of cosmologists and astronomers, chemists (spectroanalysis), astro- and geophysicists, geomorphologists including upper atmosphere specialists, and straight meteorologists, and even hydrologists and geologists. Very few if any, apart from some of our members, really hoped for or expected any of the life-sciences, even the most vital of all -- namely, Exobiology -- to be represented, but everybody was confident that E-M-technologists of the highest caliber, aeronautical design engineers, and at least one rocketry expert would be included. One may therefore perhaps understand the dismay and the doubts engendered when it was announced that, apart from one upper atmosphere specialist and an able administrator, the team consisted wholly of psychologists -- and specialists in human psychology at that!

What on earth, (or off it) the last have to do with a natural phenomenon that everybody -- except psychologists! -- were absolutely agreed was a 'physical' reality was, and still is, completely beyond comprehension. Maybe a team of psychiatrists to weed out the obvious hoaxes, crackpots, and other forms of "kookery" would have been of considerable advantage provided it had included, as well as the "couch"; those trained in police work and the study of just plain insanity. Since there was no such team either, it was immediately assumed by some parties that the committee was going to approach the problem on a dichotomous basis of very limited scope -- to wit; which of the cases could be genuine reports of physical objects, and which might be purely subjective creations of the human mind. This in turn was not calculated to allay the doubts of several groups of varying persuasion.

As a result of these preliminary announcements, not only the "saucerians" but the seriousminded "ufologists" -- and almost to a man, let alone Society -- started yelling "whitewash"; while even the Fortean, reserving judgement as is their wont and being, above all, sceptical of all sceptics, pointed out that the set-up was ideal for what they call "a wipe". Then, the Fourth Estate got into the act and with some hoots of glee. Having almost to a paper (though not a man - meaning individual reporters) ridiculed the whole business for twenty years, or rushed into print "explanations" put forward by anybody other than the ufologists, now began to predict a final, positive and official explanation. The press, however, is often incredibly naive and gullible as well as being more hidebound, obtuse, and uncritical of anything that is not fully "established" by and approved by orthodoxy of some kind than the most one-track-minded technologists. Yet, for some inexplicable reason, the press also has an almost universal reputation for sensationalism, lack of proper investigative ability, and just plain bad reporting. Anything published in any newspaper with the word "TIMES" on its masthead is taken as absolute gospel by everybody, and is looked upon with some awe even by mystics and such folk as the saucerians.

On this occasion, however, one began to note statements in columns and feature articles, mostly in smaller out of town papers and in foreign periodicals, reviewing the old battle cry of "suppression of evidence" (and notably by airforces), and hinting that the Committee was but a last-ditch attempt to maintain such a position on the part of authority. This in turn encouraged the more seriousminded ufological outfits to publish similar opinions. Hardly an issue of both saucerian mimeographed outpourings and the neatly printed and stapled periodicals of the ufological societies during the past few months has lacked some comment upon and criticism of Dr. Condon's Committee. Recently, some of these have become most outspoken and even virulent, and they have become ever more controversial and contradictory. Pure speculation as to just what is going on and what the future may hold has been, in some cases, accepted as fact, but manifestly without any reference either to the true facts of the case or to the committee's expressed opinions and published statements.

As a result our Board instructed me (ITS, as Director) to write to Dr. Condon directly and ask for an official statement of the current position and for whatever prognostications he might be prepared to make as to the future. This was prompted by the plethora of letters received from members, and notably from those

not specifically interested in ufology, asking for the facts. As a result, the letter reproduced (in part) below was despatched, and the explicit reply herewith also published (in full) was received. Before presenting these, however, we feel that an equally proper, lucid, and factual statement on the origin of the Committee should be made known to you.

This was published on the front page of N.I.C.A.P.'s * THE UFO INVESTIGATOR, Vol. IV., No.3., Nov-Dec. 1967, but was probably not seen by a majority of our members as ufology is not their primary interest and only a small percentage may have gained sight of this publication. We herewith reproduce the head to this contract as from, and with the kind permission of, NICAP.

COST		NEGOTIATED CONTRACT		RKG/bc	
REQ NO OR OTHER PURCHASE AUTH		NEGOTIATED PURSUANT TO		DISCOUNT TERMS	
P.R. No: 66-E02		10 U.S.C. 2304(a)(1)(5)		CONTRACT NO.	
ISSUED BY Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Arlington, Va. 22209		MAIL INVOICES TO: (Public Vouchers)		COGNIZANT DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT ACTIVITY	
INITIATOR: J. Thomas Ratchford, SRPS		BUYER: R. K. Gillispie, SRKB		PAYMENT WILL BE MADE BY	
CONTRACTOR (Name and Address)		THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO		The 1100th Support Group	
BOULDER, COLORADO 80302				Accounting and Finance Office	
				Bolling AFB, DC 20332	

From this it will be noted that the initiation of this enterprise was in the form of a contract between The Office of Scientific Research of the U.S. Air Force, and the Regents of the University of Colorado. This is at considerable variance with the understanding of many, notably foreigners including Canadians, who have gained the impression that it was initiated as an "act" of the Congress, then executed by the Department of Defense, per se, and designed primarily to take the business out of the hands of the U.S.A.F. specifically and military supervision generally, and hand it to a non-official, civilian, scientific outfit. In a way the basis of the transaction is just this, but the above contract demonstrates that the move was primarily designed to obtain outside scientific assistance in evaluating material that the military -- in this case, the Air Force -- had obtained over the years and was continuing to accumulate. The reply from Dr. Condon, published below, makes it quite clear that the report, although to be reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences, will be turned over to the Air Force, for public dissemination. In other words, this research is an effort to evaluate the work of the special branch of the Air Force (dubbed "Project Bluebook") by outside civilian sources. This is finally made quite clear in the following exchange of letters: -

"Dr. Edward U. Condon
Dept. of Physics & Astrophysics
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado

12th April, 1968

Dear Dr. Condon:

Our executive board asked me to write you directly in the hope of obtaining some guidance.....
We would like to inform our members, through the medium of our next Newsletter.....precisely what you might be prepared to issue at this time as to any results obtained by your investigations, the status of your work, and anything you might be prepared to prognosticate as to the future..... Please understand that we are not asking for any sort of "news-beat".....just that we would like to get the facts straight.....

* The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. 1538 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036.

Any clear and up-to-date statement that you might be prepared to give us would be most appreciated.....etc.

Yours respectfully,

(signed) Ivan T. Sanderson
Director."

"Dr. Ivan T. Sanderson (*)
Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained
325 West 45th Street (**)
New York, N. Y. 10036

16th April, 1968

Dear Dr. Sanderson:

Thank you for your letter of April 12 enclosing the materials about the Foundation. Dr. Condon is away from the office until the 26th, and thus I am replying for him.

It has become the policy of the project not to issue any reports during the time of the investigations. We are now in the very early stages of preparing the final report, which will be presented to a committee at the National Academy of Sciences for review (by Sept. 30). Following the review the report will be turned over to the Air Force at which time it will become a public document. The final decision as to how the report will be published has not yet been made, but it is anticipated that the public will be able to buy it towards the end of this year. We will not handle the distribution, and thus we are not maintaining records of requests for the report, because, in all probability, our offices here will be closed as soon as the report is presented to the Air Force.

Sincerely,

(signed) (Mrs) Kathryn Shapley
Secretary to Dr. Condon

We feel that this properly sums up the position of the Condon Committee and should obviate any further flat misstatements and, we hope, stop further speculations of the nature reported above. However, there does still remain another aspect to the whole matter of official investigations in the ufological field.

It has been hinted, and even stated flatly in all manner of quarters, that, while the whole investigation of unidentified aerial objects has been publicized merely as a minor project (solely) of the Air Force, it has always had a security angle, and that it comes under the aegis of the National Security Council. (The precise terms of reference of this organization are to be found in the current United States Government Organization Manual, page 208.) We do not know if this is the fact or whether such statements are merely irresponsible journalism; and, it is of no concern to us, as we are a scientific -- not a political -- data collection organization. We mention it only because of the apparent gross misconceptions of the whole set-up by so many, and notably abroad.

Shortly after the above was written, John G. Fuller's article, entitled "FLYING SAUCER FIASCO" -- The Extraordinary Story of the Half-Million-Dollar "Trick" to make Americans believe the Condon Committee was conducting an Objective Investigation -- appeared in the 14th May issue of LOOK magazine. Concurrently, the N. Y. TIMES ran a story entitled "Colorado U. ends Saucer Study but does not disclose Results", in their 1st May issue. We had known of the first story and most of the details contained therein for some time but, in view of the fact that a man of the stature of Fuller, in this field, was doing it for such an outlet as LOOK, we did not presume to intervene. Later still, in the May 19th issue of the weekly newspaper The NATIONAL ENQUIRER, (Vol.42, No.37), there appeared a lead article by William Dick, one of the Articles Editors of that publication, headlined: "U. S. Airforce Project Uses Doctor to... PROVE COP'S REPORT OF FLYING SAUCER BY HYPNOSIS". Said Project is the Condon Committee, and this headline summates the whole story: However, referring back to Mrs. Shapley's letter, we should note the opening sentence of her second paragraph; to wit, "It has become the policy of the project not to issue any reports during the time of the investigation." (Italics ours)

(*) The Director does not have a full doctorate.
(**) The Society's business office.

The NATIONAL ENQUIRER, like John Fuller is/are extremely good reporters, operating on the very simple premise that if you want to get at the true facts of a story the best way to go about it is to ask simple straight-forward questions. Since both these stories are fully documented, with names, dates, and locations, one has no legitimate cause to doubt them. So where does this leave us? Frankly, we believe, in the words of a famous comedienne: "Just as befogged as before"; but there is something else.

We both abhor and most carefully avoid predictions of all kinds, but we do indulge speculation based on published facts; and just about every fact known about the behavior and activities of our own Air Force and that of other nations, and all manner of other government and official agencies, ending in that of the Condon Committee itself since its inception, points in a direction that everybody seems to have overlooked. This is simply that their primary interest -- and gravest concern -- is not with UFOs per se but with any and all allegations of their 'occupants'; and these ranging all the way from what appear to be the wildest claims of the contactees to the best documented statements on police blotters. In fact, the real "scare" is not that the public will panic if the existence of UFOs themselves is officially admitted, but that (and you should pardon the corny expression) "Our Leaders" will completely lose control if the thinking public cottons on to the fact that there are superior intelligencies around; that they do have superior methods of controlling us; and that there is just nothing we can do about controlling them.

Dr. Condon is a very wise and highly experienced man, and he would not waste his time, let alone public funds, to pursue what are commonly called the "kooks, krooks, and krakpots" and especially to the exclusion of the findings of the seriousminded "ufologists", unless he had a darned good reason for so doing. But he has done so and, I was informed very recently, proposes to continue to do so. More power to him and, in our opinion, to our poor "leaders" for having had the commonsense to so pinpoint the real problem facing us. And please be advised that, during the past twenty years at least, official activity has resulted invariably -- and, as far as we can ascertain, almost exclusively -- when a "landing" has been reported or some form of "occupant" has been reported in conjunction with such.

It is therefore our speculation that it is possible -- and please note this qualifying word -- that everybody except the better informed departments of officialdom have been viewing this whole business "backward" or "inside-out" as it were. The contactees obviously don't know what they are talking about, in the literal sense; the ufologists claim UFOs not only exist but that they are material objects of some kind yet at the same time they deny the possibility of intelligent creatures in them, or even having constructed them; the public has become -- and perhaps very appropriately -- completely confused; and scientists working in different and varied fields have been kept apart, lest they put two and two together and come to see that such things as brain-control and immobilized police officers might be suffering the same interference.

THE ORIGIN OF "FORTEANISM"

The history of what we, more than reluctantly, have to call "forteanism" -- and with apologies to the late Charles Fort who was above all against all "-ISMS" -- is fraught with interest to say the least. It has not yet been told cogently but, and we would stress this, one Mr. Damon Knight (160), of "The Anchorage", Milford, Penna. (18337) is currently well into a definitive history of Fort, the Fortean Society, and the activities anent that Society of the late Tiffany Thayer. Damon Knight appealed to us some months back for help in trying to track down some material. This we were able to do. Mr. Knight was put on to us by our old friends, the Willis brothers -- Paul J., and Ronald J. -- who founded the Society named above a year ago, and which we will report on in our next issue. Meantime, any help you can give Damon Knight would be greatly valued.

On Fort's death the author Tiffany Thayer organized a Fortean Society. It lasted from 1934 until the death of Tiffany Thayer in 1959, when Mr. Thayer's widow found it impossible to carry on its operations due to ill health. The Society published a total of 61 issues of their journal; the first ten under the title "The Fortean Society Magazine", the remaining 50 as "DOUBT".

Subsequent to the demise of DOUBT, there was an hiatus of several years, during which term some long-time members of the Society endeavoured to reorganize, and several others began seeking Charles Fort's files, the files of the Fortean Society, and those of Mr. Thayer's papers that were relative to Fort, his works, and the Society.

Mrs. Thayer deposited Fort's files with the N. Y. Public Library some years ago, and they are safely housed, but not in the main building. The Keeper of Manuscripts states that, if we submit a work-schedule and working proposition, this material would be brought to the central building for examination and cataloguing. The library will make microfilmed or photo copies of this material (at our expense) so that said copies may be taken back to our HQ for analysis.

BOOK LISTING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(This is not a paid advertisement)

The initiation of this column in our last Newsletter brought such an enthusiastic response from both members and publishers, that we have decided to expand it to the limit that space permits. It will be divided into two categories: — Books in print, (which is to say that have been published); and, forthcoming titles. Titles will henceforth be listed in all categories of the sciences, not just Fortean; and those by Members will be indicated by an (*).

• • • • •

BOOKS IN PRINT

- Burton, Maurice, (1961). *The Elusive Monster*. London: Rupert Hart-Davis.
Carrington, Richard, (1957). *Mermaids and Mastodons*. New York: Rinehart & Company, Inc.
Churchill, Allen, (1960). *They Never Came Back*. New York: Ace Books
Colp, Harry D., (1953). *The Strangest Story Ever Told*. New York: Exposition Press
Fort, Charles, (1941 and subsequently). *The Books of Charles Fort*. New York: Henry Holt & Co.
Gould, Rupert T., (1965). *Enigmas*. New Hyde Park, N. Y.: University Books.
(1945). *Oddities*. London: Geoffrey Bles.
*Heuvelmans, Bernard, (1958). *On the Track of Unknown Animals*. London: Rupert Hart-Davis.
(Abridged edition, 1965, New York: Hill and Wang.)
*Keel, John A., (1958). *Jadoo*. London: W. H. Allen.
Lawrence, Lincoln, (1967). *Were We Controlled?* New Hyde Park, N. Y.: University Books.
Ley, Willy, (1951). *Dragons in Amber*. New York: Viking Press.
(1955). *Salamanders & Other Wonders*. New York: Viking Press
(1948). *The Lungfish, the Dodo & the Unicorn*. New York: Viking Press
(1967). *On Earth and in the Sky*. New York: Ace Books
(1968). *Dawn of Zoology*. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc.
Oudemans, A. C., (1892). *The Great Sea-Serpent*. Leiden: E. J. Brill; London: Luzac & Co.
*Rue, Leonard Lee, III, (1968). *Sportsman's Guide to Game Animals*. New York: Harper & Row.
Shklovskii, I. S., and Sagan, Carl (1966). *Intelligent Life in the Universe*. San Francisco: Holden-Day, Inc.
*Steiger, Brad, (1966). *Strange Guests*. New York: Ace Books
(1966). *Strangers from the Skies*. New York: Award Books.
(1966). *The Unknown*. New York: Popular Library.
(1967). *Beyond Unseen Boundaries*. New York: Popular Library.
(1967). *The Enigma of Reincarnation*. New York: Ace Books.
(1967). *Strange Men and Women*. New York: Popular Library.
(1967). with Joan Whritenour *Flying Saucers are Hostile*. New York: Award-Tandem.
Wavell, Stewart, (1958). *The Lost World of the East*. London: Souvenir Press.
Whyte, Constance, (1957). *More Than a Legend: The Story of the Loch Ness Monster*. London: Hamish Hamilton.
London: Hamish Hamilton.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

- *Sanderson, Ivan T., and Ria Niccoli, (Fall of 1968). *Animal Allies: The Origin and History of Domestic Animals*. New York: Prentice-Hall
(Early Fall, 1968). *"Interminable Woodsmen" — Folklore Come to Light*.
New York: Pyramid Books.
(Spring of 1969). *"More Things"*. New York: Pyramid Books.
*Steiger, Brad, with Joan Whritenour. (Late 1968?). *UFO Breakthrough? The Allende Letters*.
New York: Award-Tandem Books.

As to whether the titles in the first category are actually "in print" (as is technically known in the trade), those interested should apply to their library for search in the two standard works *Books in Print* and *The Cumulative Book Index*.

"Science is the pursuit of the unknown"

PURSUIT

JOURNAL

of

**The Society For The Investigation
Of The Unexplained**

... For the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of
information on new discoveries in the natural sciences



**VOL. I, NO. 4
INCORPORATING THE FOURTH
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**30th SEPTEMBER, 1968
SEE INSIDE BACK COVER FOR
PUBLISHING SCHEDULE**

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION
OF THE UNEXPLAINED**

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- (1) Corresponding Members \$10 p.a.
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The Society is legally authorized to contract with individuals, and industrial, scientific, and other institutions to undertake specific projects. (If requested, representation on the Scientific Advisory Board will be made available for the duration of any such contract.)
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This covers other societies, libraries, et alii, with whom the Society exchanges publications and other documents.
- (6) Subscriber (Individual or Library) \$5.00 p.a.
For only the quarterly journal PURSUIT, and any incidental papers, including postage.
Persons wishing to join as Corresponding Members are asked to submit along with their application a brief summary of their interests, with whatever details of their biography they might be prepared to place in an open file. This is for the benefit of other members. All requests must be made in writing and should be as specific as possible. The Society is unable to offer or render any service whatsoever to non-members.

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NON-OFFICIAL CONSULTANTS: -

There are other top-ranking experts who, while unable to join us officially due to pressure of other duties and/or commitments, have kindly offered to review specific cases in their highly technical fields that we might deem worthy of consideration. The list of names in this category is extremely gratifying to us in view of the standing of these scientists and the onerous nature of their work. They include many who are currently employed in 'sensitive' positions, both in this country and abroad.

Note: The abbreviation "S.I.T.U." has now been formally adopted as the designation of our Society.

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EDITORIAL

There are those, and among them some of our oldest friends both institutional and personal, who have accused us, and not altogether unforcibly, of going stuffy. By this they mean, we are assuming, that we have appeared to be progressively abandoning the way-out for the formal, or the established, or the so-called orthodox. This is not the case, but the impression must be there; so we would like to try once again to explain.

There are today, and there seem always to have been, three major and basic types of thinking people, with almost innumerable intermediates and crossovers of all manner of combinations. At one extreme are those who prefer to stay with beliefs of all kinds provided they have been assured to their own satisfaction that said beliefs are founded on facts. At the opposite extreme, there are those who prefer beliefs that are not founded on facts but upon further beliefs or dogmas. These poles may be called by all manner of dichotomous titles — like the orthodox and the unorthodox; the scientists and the mystics; the stuffed-shirts and the cranks; the established and the disestablished; and so on. It's an oversimplification but it works.

So what of the Third Estate?

This is where we come in. We stand bang-smack in the middle, and we call ourselves forteans, in recognition of that great wit, Charles Hoy Fort (1874-1932) who devoted his life to poking fun at all of us and with particular emphasis on the two above designated extremes. The first thing that Fort spotted was the imbecility of all Beliefs. As we have said before, he was a sort of prototype of the TV man Jack Webb, with the persistent slogan: "All I want are the facts, Ma'm; the facts". His second great discovery seems to have been that you can't prove anything, however many facts you get! This philosophy may sound nihilistic but when you clear away the beliefs of both the believers and of the non-believers, it proves to be really astonishing what you are left with — or come up with. Our old friends who are worrying about our going "stuffed", and probably just because they have seen the list of distinguished names on our Advisory Board, should indulge a second think.

We are still only too happy to hear of any new theory of the sinking of Atlantis or the incidence of two-headed cows but, lacking any concrete facts to support said theories, we reserve the right to be nothing more than polite. Given a minimum of even alleged supporting "facts" that can be checked from references supplied, we are only too happy to further pursue the matter. If then, said facts or reports actually prove to be in existence; and they do, logically at least, appear to support the initial contention, we will seek further advice from those aiding us who know more of the details of the subject than we (corporately) do. And this goes for the wildest notions and from both ends of the spectrum. We are not going to laugh at a polka-dotted central Asian for suggesting that Llamaism originally came from heaven and was grafted onto the philosophy of the Gautama Buddha. Nor will we go into guffaws when some senior technologist employed by one of the largest commercial corporations in the world tries to persuade us that the polyethylenes are nothing but crud. All peoples' opinions should, in the estimation of forteans, be respected. But.....The facts, Man; the facts.

The greatest bone of contention — and this has sprung even from our founding members and current officers — seems to be that we have stated that we do not handle or attempt to assess those matters that fall into the VIIIth segment of our famous 'Wheel of Knowledge' (see Newsletter No. 2). This does need explanation.

The realm or realms of the mental, at least such as we know it from a human point of view and of what we call human beings, in many ways falls into a category quite distinct from all other knowledge. Everything from mensuration (i.e. Segment I, or mathematics) round to the end of Segment VII (i.e. the measurable results of human enterprise) are concerned with the examination and classification of facts about our environment. Mentology looks inward, as it were, and purports to investigate us — and other mentalities, greater or lesser. That we did not initially offer to tackle any of this, and the reason why we still offer to attempt to analyze only part of it, is simply that we did not initially have, and still don't have, enough true experts in the field. Further, we are still asking ourselves: are there any real experts? This is a most pertinent question.

Segment VIII, or Mentology, covers a positively enormous range of thought. That there is a non-material as well as a material existence has been as nearly proved as anything — and we are not talking of peoples' beliefs, theories, or feelings about this. We are talking of controllable experiments that demonstrate, and as many times as you or anybody else wants, that certain animals can what we call "die" (and in every way) and then be brought back to what we call "life"; and, at your whim; and time and time again. There is a "something" here that makes the difference between these two estates, or states; and, so far, this has not been captured, measured, or weighed, so that it gives every evidence of being non-material.

CURRENT EVENTS

(Members' numbers are given in parentheses.)

Editorial Note:

The editorial committee of S.I.T.U. supervises all its publications as well as PURSUIT. It consists of the undersigned, Peter G. Kamitchis, Ivan T. Sanderson, and Marion L. Fawcett. As Managing Editor, I must inform you that our Director (ITS) has recently assumed the position of Science Editor of ARGOSY Magazine, for which publication he will contribute a monthly column entitled "The Unexplained"; will write several full-length articles per year; and assess correspondence and articles submitted to the magazine on all scientific matters. This will be done under the auspices of our Society, making use of its facilities and the guidance of its Scientific Advisory Board when necessary. The editors of ARGOSY have given us permission to expose in PURSUIT any material that we may have published with them or which we propose to submit to them in the future. Such material will be so identified in reports from now on.

Hans Stefan Santesson
Managing Editor.

ENDS GLYPTODONT

Funny story, this; but not in the way that we had expected. We hardly had hoped for a living glyptodont though it would have been a nice thing to have had; and one never knows. However, pursuit is our motto; so pursue we did. Results....

After screaming on the telephone, as reported in our last issue, to and at sundry ladies and gentlemen in Argentina, we bunged off the following letter to three scientific bodies there: -

Gentlemen:

About October of last year, 1967, it was reported that a large male "Giant Armadillo" was captured in Cordoba Province, and that it measured six feet long and stood three feet tall, but weighed over a ton. This information was briefly noted in the North American publication SCIENCE NEWS - (formerly Science News Letter). In this brief notice it was stated that "the Giant Armadillo was thought to have been extinct for 25 years".

Could you tell us if anything more sensible and factual has been published on this in your country; and, if so, by whom and where we might obtain copies? If not, could you give us some proper information on the incident?

Any information you could give us would be most greatly appreciated./

We are, Yours respectfully, etc. ...

In surprisingly short order we received the following somewhat equivocal reply from one of these institutions; namely, the Universidad Nacional de La Plata: -

Sr. Ivan T. Sanderson
Society for the Investigation
of the Unexplained
325 West 45th Street, New York

En respuesta a su atenta carta del 26 de Abril de 1968, nos es grato comunicarle que despues de una revision de diversos periodicos de 1967 no hemos hallado ninguna mencion en la prensa argentina respecto de un "armadillo gigante". No es extrana la aparicion de informaciones infundadas sobre animales mas o menos legendarias, a las cuales no les damos ninguna importancia.

Ninguna Institucion o Asociacion cientifica de la Argentina, segun nuestro conocimiento, has recibido informaciones de esta naturaleza; por tal motivo las menciones del SCIENCE NEWS a que usted se refiere, carecen, a nuestro entender de fundamento cientifico.

Sin otro particular lo saluda muy atentamente

/Signed/ Andreina B de Ringuelet
Jefe de Laboratorio

The catch-phrase herein is: "Por tal motivo las menciones del SCIENCE NEWS a que usted se refiere, carecen, a nuestro entender de fundamento científico." So we rang up SCIENCE NEWS.

With really extraordinary promptitude we were switched through to Mr. Christopher Weathersbee, who only recently assumed the position of "Life Sciences Editor" of that publication, which is officially backed by, among others, the Triple-AS, namely the American Association for the Advancement of Science. We put our problem to him and quoted from his publication and from our correspondence with the Argentinos. Mr. Weathersbee obtained a copy of the issue concerned, then and there, and expressed himself as being mildly shocked to say the least. He offered to check back on the origin of the story and let us know. He was as good as his word, and the following astonishing tale came to light.

It turned out that said story had been supplied to SCIENCE NEWS by a Sr. Emil Zubrin, of Apartado 540, Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico. Mr. Weathersbee checked back on this, only to be told that Sr. Zubrin had got it about "ninth hand" (as he put it) from somebody in the Argentinian Embassy in Mexico, D. F. Further, he was unable to get any satisfactory answer from said Sr. Zubrin on his actual sources. We are indeed grateful to Mr. Weathersbee for going to all this effort. Would that more science editors should take such trouble.

However, we are left with a distinctly nervous twitch. Just how much else that is published in journals of this augustness, or even in the fully technical periodicals of organizations like the AAAS who back them, is founded on such flimsy evidence and is so utterly unchecked? This is indeed an alarming consideration, and more especially when such types of journal make a point of deriding anything unexplained on the grounds that it was dredged up by what they so scathingly call "an amateur", and therefore cannot possibly be "scientific", have been properly checked, or even be true. Not only was this story manifestly rubbish, as we pointed out in our last issue; it now turns out to be a complete fabrication. One begins to wonder just how much else dished up for the layman is founded on nothing. And another thing.

In the July 1st, 1950 issue of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER (the precursor of this SCIENCE NEWS), pages 12 and 13 were devoted to an article entitled "Hints for Writing Science". (Incidentally, you can't "write science", though you may be able to "write about it".) This led off with a column entitled "Don'ts for Would-Be Writers of Science" by "The Late Edwin E. Slosson, First Director of SCIENCE SERVICE". Good advice here, but this was followed by a piece entitled "Stories That Should Be Handled With Care" by Watson Davis, Director of SCIENCE SERVICE. This is a most fascinating document, listing no less than 89 subjects that ought to be avoided, with the implication that they are (were) phony. We've sat on this article for 18 years now and, sure enough, an ever-growing percentage of these "damned things" (as Charles Fort would say) have popped into respectability by the very simple process of having been proved to the satisfaction of orthodoxy. Only the science-fiction boys have a worse batting average.

THE OBVIOUS

Many ideas, and perhaps especially great ideas, seem, once they have been ideated, to be painfully obvious. There is a suspicion also that a rather high percentage of them dawn suddenly (and often after a good night's sleep to boot), but as a result of prolonged cogitation and a sort of mental nibbling around the business. One such idea floated in recently from Frank B. Shields (155). It's so bloody obvious, it hurts. But, first, Frank Shields.

Frank Shields, now resident in Florida, is a consummate animal artist and sculptor, currently carving a series of North American birds, and coloring them. This is a sort of throwback to classical statuary, since the Greeks, for instance, coloured their sculpts; but, in this case it has even greater significance. Frank Shields used to be an illustrator of such definitive works as Dr. H. E. Anthony's FIELD BOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN MAMMALS, first published in 1928. For three decades he has been studying the colours and colour-patterns of animals relative not only to camouflage but also to their visual impact on other members of the same species, on other species, and on predators. One day he will write up his findings, and the ethologists are going to get a great shock.

That which Frank Shields now has suggested — and rather casually, we might add — is a 'new' but appallingly obvious procedure, or technique, for animal-spotting and watching. This would seem to have particular applicational possibilities for continuing surveys of and for items like ABSMs and Lake Monsters that are partially pinned down, such as the California Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monsters. As Frank Shields says "The idea will probably at first sound quite whacky" but we admonish you to take his further advice and "think about it for a time". So what is it? Simply, captive balloons.

Think....just think for a moment....From a balloon, observers could observe a really very large area

without any noise; could photograph by day and night (infrared), employ sensitive sonar detection devices, and keep various other kinds of watches. So darned obvious is this suggestion that we have transferred it to David James (203), the moving spirit in the seven-year-old annual day and night watch on Loch Ness.* If you could anchor a raft on a lake, which would not of course be easy, a balloon could be elevated from it to cover a very much greater area of the water than any land-based photo-station. In our Northwest, even one balloon could cover a hundred, a thousand, or ten thousand times the area, and on a twenty-four-hour basis, than any team of surface-pounding searchers could. No noise, no unwarranted stinks, no disturbance. Need we say more? Yes.

Of course, there is the little matter of money but, if you knew what terrestrial equipment has cost already in both the cases cited, you would take a different view of this suggestion to that which will obviously be your obvious first reaction. Once over that hurdle, let the technologists and technicians loose. The things they have begun to think up already make our — and doubtless will that of ABSMs — hair stand on end. Why; you don't even have to man the bloody balloon platforms; and don't forget that front-page headlines on a newspaper have now been read from photographs taken from 40,000 feet up. That's some eight miles for up!

Incidentally, the balloons could be anchored on shore and still cover a vast area of water.

ANIMAL ITF

For just a century now, scientific literature has from time to time noted reports of a more than puzzling (alleged) phenomenon, though since the turn of the century almost all such mentions have been of a highly sceptical and even derogatory nature. One wonders therefore why they were ever mentioned at all! The matter to which we refer used to be called teleportation, meaning "instant transference" of solid objects from one place to another and even through solids. The (alleged) process is now referred to as ITF.

There has recently been an upsurge in such reports, culminating in a letter we received from a member of the upcoming generation which read as follows: —

The "discoveries" I am about to tell you about were products of working in a pet shop whose name is of no consequence, though you might know it. The "rats" are tame, domesticated animals whom you might think nothing about. But these rats, and maybe others, possess an unexplainable, and almost fantastic power. As for my main case and point:

A small cage 9"x5"x4" contained a white rat 9 inches long and 3½ inches at the highest point, and a small Hooded Rat. (Incidentally, Hooded Rats have a tendency to escape whenever possible.) These rats had been put in the small cage so I could clean their large cage. I secured the top on the small cage. The cage cannot be opened from the inside, and only can be opened by simultaneously pulling up two small metal tabs. I left to fill up a water bottle. When I returned, the large white rat had disappeared, and only the Hooded Rat remained. Somewhat bewildered, I returned to the back room to look for the rat. I had re-secured the cage cover. When I returned, there was the white rat, in the cage with the cover closed! Explain please! According to this and other things, such as a rat getting out of a cage with a rock on top of it, "running" through a locked door and carrying eight baby rats back to her cage, rock unmoved, I believe rats have ITF.

/Signed/ Alan Lucas

This brings up a number of questions, and points to the necessity for the enumeration of some sources of information on this subject. These are many and varied.

They may be divided into the recorded and the non-recorded. Among the first, we have to go back to the earliest Sumerian, Egyptian, Assyrian, Vedic Indian, Chinese, and Persian literature, and move through Greek, Roman, Middle Islamic, and Mediaeval European records to Renaissance times. There is then a considerable break of about 500 years during which, in the West, the matter dropped into the purileus of mysticism and the occult. With the revival of pragmatism under the guise of science at the end of the 18th Century, straight reports and flat statements on them began tentatively to appear in what was then called philosophical literature. (And, incidentally, any forteen looking for a long-term research project who is unable to travel but has ready access to a large library might well start compiling items of ITF from the literature of all those mentioned above.)

It must not be overlooked that ITF in the record covers not only animals, but human beings, and all

*A reply recently received from David James says that they had considered this idea but rules & regulations more even than the cost had nixed it.

manner of inanimate objects. But there is a catch here. The majority of the last will be found in the writings of the mystics, occultists, spiritualists, and spiritists, wherein they will be called "apports". These might well be listed — like the vast "collection" presented to Stanford University some years ago — see FATE, June, 1962, p.115 — which has caused such an uproar — but there is plenty to be done without them.

Once again, good old Charles Fort picks up the threads in the year 1800 AD; and somebody ought also to comb his works for this matter specifically. It was he, moreover, who coined the word teleportation for this phenomenon. After Fort's death, the Fortean Society carried on until Gladys Fusaro of Long Island started supplying James Moseley with fortean items for his FLYING SAUCER NEWS. Later still, Paul and Ron Willis picked up the slender thread again for their current INFO BULLETIN. However, not even Fort completely combed the field; and small wonder, since thirty years of probing has brought to light a seemingly endless string of items almost everywhere one looks. In other words, the reports are so massive in number and so singularly similar in content that one can but at least suspect what is customarily called a "law" here.

Turning to the unrecorded information, we have once again to go back way beyond the dark ages to the dimmest recesses of what is commonly called primitive society. Here, we can only infer, and from what has been learned of the beliefs of living relic peoples, what their ancestors believed. And, wherever you turn in the literature of ethnology and cultural anthropology, you will encounter "tales" of ITF; and just about every searcher and researcher in those fields has sometime slipped into recording the same sort of thing still occurring today among all primitive peoples. Here is another fruitful field for fortean research. All you've got to do is start reading the technical literature, and keep reading; and then proceed to the travelogues, starting circa 700 AD with the great Arab explorers like Ibn Battuta; not forgetting the Portuguese and Spaniards; and ending with the British Indian Army Colonels with the rods and guns. In this literature many items are not true reports, but merely hints as to what the benighted "natives" are alleged to have said happened.

The modern equivalent of this sort of stuff is the verbal reports and mere gossip and table-talk that you will hear whenever and wherever professional animal people get together — collectors, exporters, importers, handlers, trainers, circus and zoo men, and the other hardboiled cookies who keep our arenas filled. These people lead a very precarious life. I have yet to meet one who started out with any capital; and the only capital they ever accumulate is their individual reputation to deliver. They usually have to pay cash for the animals, and they usually have to wait for months to get paid, even if they do deliver. Insurance is normally unobtainable and if it is, it is so exorbitant that no animal man can afford it. Therefore, animal people are not going to let animals out of cages even for publicity purposes; and, what is more, they know better than anybody how to construct unopenable cages and how to keep an eye on them. Yet, we can guarantee that at any get-together of working animal people an account of some inexplicable escape will come up.

Our young friend Alan Lucas is to be congratulated on bringing all this out into the open and we hope that it may prompt others to overcome their fear of ridicule and give us some facts. We have almost an over-abundance of cases of alleged ITF of inanimate objects*, and those concerning human-beings almost constitute another subject as it gets us involved in history, the police, bureaux of missing persons and suchlike. Let us stick with other animals for now; and all the way from Fort's series of fresh dead Lynxes on one stretch of rail line in England when no such animal had been lost by a zoo and all had been extinct for centuries in that country, to the horse that turned up in a third floor apartment bathroom — address not given, as the landlords have already threatened suit against anybody else who mentions the matter, and our legal advisers say that they will get away with it next time. Just keep an eye on horses, cats, and rats (not mice) that you may have around; and if you own exotic pets, keep a particularly wary eye on Putty-nosed Guenon, Giant Rhesus, and Douroucoul monkeys; the Ring-tailed 'Cats' or Cacomixtles; and, among birds, any member of the crow family.

ITS AND THE ATTA ANTS (An editorial aside — H.S.S.)

In the May, 1963 issue of FATE, Ivan Sanderson published an account of apparent ITF among the Atta or Leaf-Cutter Ants of Suriname (then Dutch Guiana). The author had both conducted his own experiments on these insects in that country and assisted at some stages of a most massive investi-

*Except that one of our members makes a speciality of recording the activities of wedding-rings which, for some reasons other than the obvious, would seem to possess the most extraordinary proclivities!

gation of these pests by Dr. Gerold Stahel, Dr. D. C. Geijskes, and others of the Landsbouproofstation, at Paramaribo, in 1938. The article itemized above had, however, to be written from memory as both original notes, photographs, copies of Professor Stahel's reports, and published papers on the subject were lost during the war. We were asked to publish on this in a scientific journal but declined because of this lack of documentation.

Then, by a most extraordinary string of chance events at the end of last year, the following took place. We received a letter from Madame Stahel, now residing in the Netherlands. One of our members, himself a Hollander, had drawn her attention to a passage in a booklet, written by Sanderson for Doubleday's "Around the World" Series, on Suriname, several years before, which had mentioned her ethnological study of an Amerindian girl of a then completely unknown tribe who had wandered out of the hinterland and been put in her charge. Prompted by this, Madame Stahel addressed us through that publisher and, as a result, in reply to a plea from us, managed to spare copies of some of her late husband's publications on the Atta, together with a list of all others not on hand. These are in four languages, and published in six countries, and we are still engaged in tracking them down and translating them. In them we have already found some, and fully expect to find the rest of the most properly scientific and convincing account of natural ITF that we know of. We would then hope to publish and would present a prepublication summary in this journal.

DR. CONDON, ON AGAIN

We're not sure but that we aren't getting a bit bored with this subject but we will stick with it to the bitter end as it is manifestly not only creating such a popular rumpus but is also showing signs of production.

In our last issue we pointed out at the end of a report on this matter that it was our feeling that just about everybody has been (cliche) barking up the wrong tree. Our feeling then was — and this has now been immeasurably enhanced — that neither Dr. Condon nor our Air Force, nor even the ultimate powers that be, are much interested in UFOs per se, but are most deeply concerned with any life-forms that might have built some, run them, and/or come out of them. We don't know if it was this published speculation that ignited the rocket but the same notion has now popped out all over. For instance, take the following Release by SAUCER NEWS, the oldest reporting publication in the field of ufology:

"From: SAUCER NEWS
303 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

MU 6-3743
Editor: James W. Moseley
Managing Editor: Timothy Green Beckley

DR. CONDON PRAISED BY SERIOUS UFOLOGISTS

In an attempt to offset a vicious attack by John G. Fuller and the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena in the May 14th issue of LOOK MAGAZINE, on the famed University of Colorado UFO Project headed by Dr. Edward U. Condon, 35 Flying Saucer Organizations from all over the United States and Canada — representing the Congress of Scientific UFOlogists — gathered in Cleveland this past week-end and unanimously adopted the following resolution:

- (1) That Dr. Edward U. Condon is a distinguished scholar and distinguished American.
- (2) That Dr. Condon has, by his unfailing good cheer and uniformly courteous consideration of those around him, made a valuable contribution to the progress of UFOlogy.
- (3) That it is the sense of this Congress that Dr. Condon has been subjected to the unnecessary and unmerited burden of irresponsible personal vilification, which has needlessly complicated the already impressive challenge of his office.
- (4) That the leaders of the Congress appreciate Dr. Condon's apparent intention of full public disclosure in the conduct of his present investigation."

We do not wholly agree with the preamble to the contained Resolution since John Fuller, unless he made the whole thing up, was doing no more than reporting. We don't know whether NICAP's actions and reactions were occasioned by pique as this release went on to imply, but we must state that we doubt it. Dr. Condon's Committee has, let's face it, behaved in a most amateurish manner on the political front. Right or wrong, the quotes attributed to this Dr. Low were not just stupid but outrageous — if truly quoted. Fortean's know only too well that this is the sort of thinking indulged in by certain groups but it is most impolitic to permit them to leak to the press. Either this whole bit is a colossal joke or it is deadly serious. We can hardly believe that it is the former since a modest half-

million dollars is still rather a lot to spend just for fun — even by a government! If, on the other hand, it is a serious matter, and particularly to our national security as has now been so clearly stated in a long list of pronouncements of an official and semi-official nature, it ought to have been handled in a more competent manner.

This is not to be construed as a criticism of Dr. Condon. The goofs have been attributed to others and not, it seems, to scientists. Amateurs should stay out of, or be kept out of, the security field. In basic scientific fields, moreover, technologists may be seen but should definitely not be heard from.

JESSUP AND THE ALLENDE CASE

One Carlos Allende (pronounced Aye-ender), alias, it is believed, Carl Allen, is alleged to be a Gypsy of Spanish origin, for long a citizen of the United States, and now to be lodged in a mental institution in Mexico. The final fact is on the say-so of a correspondent of long standing (not a member), whom we respect and whose opinions are accepted by a number of scientists and others in the Chicago area. The gentleman is currently in the Navy. We have more recently been informed that Dr. Condon has interviewed Allende but we have no official confirmation of this.

There are now no less than three books out that cover this case, the most recent by member Brad Steiger (90), entitled NEW UFO BREAKTHROUGH (Award Books, 1968). Yet, the story goes on and on without ever getting at the pith of the matter. We happen to have firsthand knowledge of this central theme, core, or pith, and we feel that it ought to be expressed to, if nothing else, cut off the endless stream of drivel that descends upon us regarding it.

The matter goes back to the early 1950s when one Morris K. Jessup received three letters from a small town in Pennsylvania, signed by a man as Carl Allen. These at first sight looked like typical crank letters; in fact, the average person would have taken them as jibberish. But then, Morris Jessup was one of the first real "thinkers" on the subject of what were then commonly called flying saucers, or to us, UFOs. He had already published three books on the subject.

Then, one day about two years later, he received — or at least he told a group of us that he had received — a request from the Office of Naval Research to call upon them. This he stated that he did, and he went on to tell us that persons in higher authority had handed him a copy of one of his books, THE CASE FOR THE UFO, that had been heavily marked up in three different colored inks. They asked him to take this back to quarters and go through it. This book had been received in a plain manila envelope by Admiral N. Furth, then Chief, O.N.R., Washington 25, D.C. This was postmarked Seminole, Texas.

As Morris Jessup went through this annotated copy he became increasingly alarmed because ever more of the comments appeared to concern matters of which he had heard but which were not mentioned in this book. Further, the person, or persons, who had penned these marginal notes and comments obviously knew a great deal about the then current "folklore" of UFOs, extraterrestrials, and many other related matters otherwise only mooted by assorted kooks, mystics, and suchlike. That these were true or not was not the point. The fact that they should be so precisely known to an unknown, was. Morris Jessup re-annotated the book, inserting and sticking typed slips of comment on about every tenth page. Then he reported in to the ONR.

Subsequent events then went as follows, according to him. The Navy people first asked if he had any idea as to who the annotaters of the book might be. Jessup did not know but he had an idea, and so left for home to go through his files. From these he extracted the three letters from this Carl Allen which seemed to him to refer to the same matters, in the same terms, and in the same strange phraseology. On submission of these, the Navy is said to have stated that they thought they had a common origin and, further, that the writer or writers were most likely Spanish Gypsies. They then sent the original copy of the book to the Varo Mfg. Corporation in Garland, Texas, where twelve copies were made by a girl specially employed to do the job (according to that corporation, in 1967) using black type for the text and red for the underlinings and annotations. This edition contained the Allende letters and an Introduction that is not signed or credited to anybody. (See next report.) The original and three copies were delivered to the ONR, Morris Jessup being handed the first copy. At least two copies were retained by the Varo Corp.; one of which was loaned to one of our members in 1966 for a month. One landed in an outfit called B.S.R.A. in California. Either this or another was circulated among some "saucer" buffs and ended up with Gray Barker in West Virginia, who published a sort of dehydrated version.

This accounts for six or seven of the copies. To whom the rest were distributed, and how or why, is not on the record. In fact, it is not clear why this so-called Varo Edition was made in the first place. One turned up in a most unexpected quarter in western Europe. However, the most important

one was that given to Jessup. On receipt of this, Morris Jessup entered his re-annotations in it and added several more.

Then, in 1958 a whole series of most mysterious events took place. Morris Jessup was then resident in Indiana where he was an editor of an astrological publication. He owned a large house in Florida which was closed as his children had married and moved out of state and his wife had moved to another house nearer her place of business. Morris came to New York on a business trip to contact astrological outfits and publishers; the trip happened to coincide with a number of somewhat 'wild' flying saucer meetings and two serious-minded ufological ones. The most outlandish things then began to happen, which provide ample material for a full-length book in themselves. They ended in a really ghastly tragedy.

On a certain day — the date of which I will not specify here for reasons given below — Morris Jessup was a guest in my (ITS) home in New York. There were about a dozen people present, off and on, before, during, and after dinner. At one point Morris asked three of us if we could have a chat in my private office. To this we repaired; and he then handed us the original re-annotated copy, and asked us in great sincerity to read it, then lock it up in safe keeping "in case anything should happen to me". This appeared all very dramatic at the time but, after we had read this material, we must admit to having developed a collective feeling of a most unpleasant nature; and this was somewhat horribly confirmed when Jessup was found dead in his car in Florida six months later.

We have repeatedly been asked to disclose the name of the confidant who received this material of Jessup's for safe keeping, and we have just as repeatedly refused to do so — and we will continue to do so. The reason for this is nothing mysterious or actually anything much to do with the actual contents of that material. It is a purely personal matter. Morris was a devoted family man and especially solicitous of the future welfare of his grandchildren. At this our last meeting he was extremely distraught and admitted that, due to an originally pure intellectual interest in natural phenomena, he found that he had been sucked into a completely insane world of unreality. He expressed outright terror at the endless stream of 'coincidences' that had occurred in his work and in his private life; but, beyond this, he was distressed that he might be accused of outright insanity should he mention these aggravations and related matters.

What he actually said to us was in substance: I don't think I'm going balmy but I do believe all this nonsense is actually happening and is not a figment of my imagination. If you read this book you will see why I have been forced to this conclusion. Now, if I am right, I have a feeling that this just can't go on any longer without something unpleasant happening; and, if something does and anybody reads this material, they will immediately say that I obviously went around the bend; and once that has been even suggested, you know quite well that the average uninvolved citizen will immediately jump to the conclusion that there is insanity in my family.

This was a pretty tragic situation on the face of it even then. Naturally, we gave our solemn promise that Morris' request would be scrupulously observed; while he for his part, added the rider that only if certain persons he named requested in writing (and legally affidavited) that we do so, should the material be published.

Jessup was scheduled to drive back to Indiana two days later. However, after two weeks a business associate of his received a letter from his publisher asking where he might be as he had not returned. After a further interval of about a month another of his friends in New York learned that he was in Florida, had gone there directly from New York, had opened his house, and a few days later had been involved in a very serious car accident from which he was still recovering. Four months later still, his principal confidant in New York received a very depressed and depressing letter from Morris. This was in mid-April, 1959. In this he said that he had been unable to do any work since the accident and he made the remark that he was "a complete vegetable". In fact, this letter is a straight suicide note and asked outright that certain things be done as he was going to take the risk on "another existence or universe being better than this miserable world". There was a great deal more on this score. A week later Jessup was dead.

As soon as news got around among the saucerians and mystics with whom Jessup had associated, rumours began to fly, and the usual false tales began to appear. This was greatly enhanced by the false report that Jessup had been found dead in his car in a park. He was not; he was found in his car in a locked garage in his house. Most unfortunately, no precise statement has ever been issued as to whether a pipe had been led to the closed car from the exhaust or not; nor was it stated whether the garage was locked from the inside or the outside, or the car locked at all. These latter points may just never have been published, as his death did not receive more than perfunctory notice.

There is no known reason to suppose that his death was other than suicide, and a carefully planned suicide at that. He had been distraught and depressed for over a year due mostly to his publishers having turned down his manuscripts, though on the perfectly legitimate grounds that they were un-

organized and not up to his previous standard. Actually, he was pushing too hard when he wrote them, thus bringing on a vicious circle. Road traffic experts might well say that his accident was another link in this chain, as people should not drive if they are overly distraught, and the physical results of this accident certainly were very grave.

A group of us recently discussed the matter and all agreed that it was the Allende case that started this chain of events. Jessup had been an ebullient enthusiast prior to this, almost too enthusiastic and confident of his theories; but, after this, he seemed suddenly to doubt everything. He told us in his last meeting that he frankly just could not "think cosmically", explaining that the concepts put forward by Allende in his letters and the annotations in the book were beyond his comprehension but set at nought all he thought he had gained in knowledge of what he had always considered was a fairly straightforward and more or less 'insulated' business — namely, the UFOs. Morris K. Jessup was in our opinion a victim of the most deadly disease of the specialist.

THE VARO INTRODUCTION

For the benefit of our members — and they are a majority — who are not primarily interested in ufology and such, we reproduce herewith the pertinent paragraphs from the introduction to the Varo Edition of the annotated copy of Morris K. Jessup's book THE CASE FOR THE UFO, mentioned in the preceding report. This business, like so many others that only a few months ago were not for a moment suspected of being related, has recently fallen into line with a lot else. In fact, it is today hard to get through any popular article, or report, or even scientific paper without stumbling upon some link with one or more apparently (up till now) quite other matters. Bear in mind that, while this Introduction was not signed, it has all the hallmarks of an official statement; and well it should, since it preceded what is an official document. Herewith pertinent extracts from the text: —

"Notations that imply intimate knowledge of UFO's, their means of motion, their origin, background, history, and habits of beings occupying UFO's provide an interesting subject for investigation. Such notations were found in a copy of the paperback edition of M. K. Jessup's "Case for the UFO". Because of the importance which we attach to the possibility of discovering clues to the nature of gravity, no possible item, however disreputable from the point of view of classical science, should be overlooked.

It might be helpful for you to know a little about the nature of the notes before you begin reading this book. The notes refer to two types of people living in space. Specifically the "stasis neutral" and undersea are mentioned as habitats. They seem to live in both interchangeably. The building of undersea cities is mentioned. Many different kinds of ships are used as transportation. These two peoples, races or whatever they may be called, are referred to over and over again. They are called L-M's and S-M's.* The L-M's seem to be peaceful; the S-M's are not. It seems that the annotations are inclined toward the L-M's as they speak more kindly of them than the S-M's.

Terms such as: mothership, home-ship, dead-ship, Great ark, great bombardment, great return, great war, little-men, force-fields, deep freezes, undersea building, measure markers, scout ships, magnetic and gravity fields, sheets of diamond, cosmic rays, force cutters, undersea explorers, inlay work, clear-talk, telepathing, burning "coat", nodes, vortices, magnetic "net", and many others are used quite naturally by these men. They explain how, why, and what happens to people, ships, and planes that have disappeared. They explain the origin of odd storms and clouds, objects falling from the sky, strange marks and footprints, and other things which we have not solved.

These men seem to feel that it is too late for man to obtain space flight. They feel that mankind could not cope with "those mind wrecking conditions that space and sea contain" for mankind is too egotistical, values too much the material, wars over mere parcels of this planet, is too filled with jealousy, and lacks true brotherhood.

How much truth is there in this? That cannot be answered. It is evident that these men provide some very intriguing explanations; explanations that may be worth consideration."

We think that, however sceptical you may be of this whole business, you will admit that this is a pretty bald statement to be issued in, or even to be permitted to be issued in a publication that states

*It is interesting to note that, by pure coincidence, these are the abbreviations used by forteen biologists for "Land Monsters" and "Sea Monsters".

categorically that it was prepared on behalf of the Navy. It shows very considerable commonsense and a truly scientific attitude towards the unexplained, and it is a sad commentary that the general public either has not the time or the inclination, or probably the gumption to recognize this fact. The public had better wake up and start at least trying to understand such matters rather than wasting what spare time it does still have on escape literature.

ROGUE MISSILES

We have received a model report of a forteen happening from Member No. 213, Mrs. Charles A. Green of Trenton, N.J., which we publish herewith in toto but not only for this reason. The subject, although a very old one, happens to be very much alive currently. Also, it forms but one of a group of related subjects, an overall analysis of which is in process of final compilation and of which a capsulated version will form the substance of a forthcoming article in ARGOSY. Mrs. Green's report reads as follows:—

"At about noon on a cool, clear day in the fall of 1966, I had just come home from town. I had gone directly to my bedroom, and had just placed a parcel post package — which I had picked up on my way into the house — on my bed when there was an explosion in my room. At first I thought the parcel had exploded. I then saw a large hole in the glass of an upper window pane and a corresponding hole in the storm sash outside this pane, about four or five feet to my left.

Although my head had been in a direct line from the hole nothing had struck me, and there was not the slightest damage to sheer curtains covering the window.* However, pulverized glass completely covered the room, including my bed beside which I was standing. Some of this pulverized glass had even gone out into the hallway leading from the far end of my room and into the living room which opened off the hall.

A man was cutting the grass at the lower end of the yard at the time. I went out to ask him if the mower had thrown a stone. He said it had not. Furthermore, he said no one else was anywhere around.

The location of the hole in the two panes was about nine feet from the ground outside the window. The ground slopes downward from the house to the end of the yard. The holes were in exact alignment, which they would not have been if any missile had been thrown from the ground level.

A thorough examination of the environs by me, a neighbor, and two policemen revealed no source of the explosion.

1. There had been no sonic boom.
2. Nothing had struck the wall opposite the window (it would certainly have struck me first!).
3. There was no stone or any other missile to be seen anywhere in my room; nor between the window and the screen below the broken window and storm glass; nor on the grass beneath the window.
4. Clearly a bird had not flown through the glass.
5. Besides the fact that there was no missile, or evidence of any, no one could have thrown or shot anything through the window, unless he was in the tree outside and this was obviously not the case.
 - a. The holes were directly opposite each other, 9 feet above the ground.
 - b. Two trees in the yard near the house were in direct line from the window, one quite close to it. Even if someone were on the roof of the house on the next street, it would have been impossible for him to break the window at that exact point, because of these two trees and intervening trees between the yards; and the fact that my house stands higher than the neighboring house.

Glass is not by any means the only substance that shatters spontaneously but we are not actually concerned with "shattering" at the moment. Many cases of complete pulverization have well-known physichemical explanations — such as recrystallization, which causes car windshields suddenly to explode into a myriad little angular nubbins. Mrs. Green's case falls into a separate class of phenomena which appear to be caused by missiles. These, in turn, may be clearly divided into two types — material and found; and apparently non-material or at least evanescent and not found. The first lot

*Shortly before going to press we requested some further clarification on this key statement as underlined but will have to give the answer in our next issue.

can be stray bullets, the origin of which is not known or heard, or stones, or other items, including such bizarre things as statuettes and half a brassiere filled with small lead shot! All these rogue missiles are distinguished by making holes in things.

Another related matter is one that we have never found mentioned even in fortean literature and which has always intrigued us. This absence of reference is the more extraordinary in that it is not just a common but an almost universal phenomenon. Basically, it is simply broken windows. We all realize that windows break, and often spontaneously, for all manner of reasons — high winds, birds, a settling house, excessive heat on one side, and so on — but the fortean aspect enters the picture (or window) when another factor, and the one that has been overlooked, is taken into account. This is a real enigma: to wit, why is it that tens of thousands of summer homes, for instance, are closed-up for several months but that, unless vandalized, they lose only an occasional window pane from readily explicable natural causes; while, let a building be abandoned, and within weeks or even days a varying percentage up 100% of its windows may be broken? Furthermore, actual surveys have shown that this goes for isolated buildings in the depth of the country to crowded industrial city areas, and from bungalows to multistoreyed warehouses. (The tallest of which we have record was 14 storeys, in Brooklyn, N.Y.). The explanations put forward in no case hold water, especially the old saw about the heat having been turned off. Moreover, who last saw a "naughty little boy with a sling-shot", and what embryo David could systematically knock in over a hundred windows at the top of a fourteen-storey building, fronting on two busy streets, without being heard? Then again, how do you slingshot windows outwards?

But to return to our main theme, rogue missiles, we must just put on record here that the percentage of cases wherein a person was injured or even hit is so incredibly low that it must constitute a feature of the phenomenon, and a truly fortean one at that. We urge members to contemplate these and related matters and to send us their findings. If any of you are police officers or have friends who are, try above all to make a survey of their blotters for cases; you will be very surprised at the number and the odd rhythms of these incidents both in time and in any one area. Like so many other fortean phenomena, they appear to display a marked regionality.

RINGING ROCKS AGAIN

We started a really monumental uproar (and this is a deliberate pun) earlier this year by giving as our prime example of an unexplained in our area the Ringing Rocks of Bucks County, Pa. This caught the fancy of the local press who ran about a dozen stories on these, while the NATIONAL OBSERVER mentioned them in a front-page column on S.I.T.U. which was picked up in Europe. This is somewhat amazing even to us since these extraordinary natural phenomena have been known since earliest colonial times and the best of them, at a place with the delightful name of Upper Black Eddy on the Delaware, is now a county park.

This location presents not just the oddity of tens of thousands of rocks that "ring" but at least a dozen other enigmas and paradoxes, too numerous and complicated even to outline here. (For full details, up to this year, we must therefore refer you to a pocket book entitled "THINGS", by Ivan T. Sanderson, Pyramid Books, N.Y., 1967, 75¢ — H.S.S.) This is to report on what we are trying to do about one of these enigmas, namely the reason why nothing grows, and hardly any animal life lives on the ten acres of these rocks which are wholly surrounded by beautiful tall woods absolutely teeming with life.

Two years ago we set up an experiment in the shade of a large apple tree and in full sunlight at HQ, consisting of rocks that rang, and ordinary ones that did not, in glass fish tanks, both open and covered with sheets of glass, and the whole surrounded by a wire fence to keep out animals. All tanks were filled with water from the same source, a deep well giving water tested to show a pH of 7, and a nil bacterial count of a contaminatory nature — in other words as pure natural water as we had available short of distilled which was avoided for specific reasons. The intention was to ascertain whether the ringing rocks inhibited algal and other growth. Unfortunately half the apple tree was split off in a violent thunderstorm after only two weeks and demolished all but two of both sets of tanks.

This is merely to report that we have now set up the same experiment in the laboratory at HQ but on a limited control basis. To date, there is no sign of inhibition of growth in the ringing-rock tank, though it took twice as long for visible signs of life to get going therein. As of date it is, in fact, apparently rapidly overtaking the other tanks. We are next going to try pulverized rock on fungoid growths on agar under covered petri dishes in light and in total darkness. The next set of experiments will then be with higher plants and invertebrate animals. Later the effect, if any, on vertebrates will be tested.

Meantime, Richard Palladino (200) of the Forrestal Research Center of Princeton, has taken on

supervision of the overall investigation and of all chemophysical aspects of the research, thus leaving the rest of us to carry on its biological and geological aspects. Any members wishing and able to participate, even at long distance, are asked to get in touch with us, and any suggestions that any of you may have are more than welcome. But please first read the account in "THINGS" as we have no full report ready as yet, even of a purely informational nature.

STONES SPHERES - PART 2.

Another old enigma has cropped up again and from a most unexpected quarter. This is the matter of stone spheres, reported casually from time to time from all over the world but usually attributed to the demolition of some baronial mansion, princely palace, or latterday middle class municipal pretention. In one case, however, no such origin could be suggested due to the enormous number, great range of size - up to 16 feet in diameter - and location of said stones. This was in a very limited area in southeastern Costa Rica of Centoamerica. This phenomenon was first publicized by Dr. Samuel and Mrs. Lothrop, anthropologists ex Chicago, in 1955. Their account appeared in NATURAL HISTORY for September of that year, and in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of 17th December of the same year. Several feature articles have appeared on this location since, but all founded on the Lothrop's report, except for one by Danny and Arlene Liska in the Magazine of the Midlands of July, 1964, which gave some new firsthand information. The business was summarized and then analyzed in the pocket book "THINGS", mentioned above.

That which now exercises our contemplation is the appearance of some more, similar, perfectly spherical, stone balls in North America. This was brought to our attention recently, and quite separately by two of our most respected members, Barney Nashold (87) and Howard Peddle (172), the former currently "of no fixed abode" as he is travelling on a research project in Centoamerica; the latter of South Range, Wisconsin. Before telling their stories, which we had held up pending receipt of photographs, we must however interject some neglected items of a similar nature from the past. All of these were dredged up by good old FATE Magazine. These go as follows: -

First, a letter on p.122 of the April-May issue of 1952, which reads as follows:

"I wish to call to your attention some very peculiar spherical balls of sandstone perfectly round and about 10 to 12 inches in diameter which I observed several years ago while visiting at Mandan, N.D. Upon inquiry I was told that these also could be found at Cannonball, N.D. - in fact the town was so named because of them. Some said they were the work of giants, some of the glaciers. Now it seems to me that they were the work of human beings because of their round form and uniform size. Would it be possible that you have a correspondent who could send in an article on them?" /Signed/ A. C. Nelson, Palisade, Minn.

This resulted in: -

"In regards to the article by A. G. Nelson, Palisade, Minn., I can't tell him how or why the stone balls are found, but I can tell him they are not man made. My answer is just a guess but I believe they are the result of water rolling them round. I know where there are enough to pave a road from Miami, Fla., to the farthest corner of North Dakota. All of them are not round but I did at one time help dig a well 23 feet deep and we never did get through the round stones. Some of them are as much as six feet through and some the size of marbles. This place is about 38 miles north of Chattanooga, Tenn., on the Southern Railway. The town of Graysville is about the center of the most rocks. They are between Lone Mountain on the east and the Cumberlands on the west and have caused much speculation as to how they got there." /Signed/ J.S. Russell, Orlando, Fla. (FATE, September 1952, pp. 116, 118)

And this in turn prompted: -

"We lived in eastern Montana for a good many years, and these 'marbles' are scattered all through this dry country. Noticed myself these balls never seemed to be on the lower ground, but found plenty of them on the little rounded hilltops all through this sandy, desert-like region. My children used the little ones for marbles. A great many of them explode with a gun-like report if put in a hot fire. (Italics ours) When my Dad was herding sheep in that country, he found an extra large one, some three or four inches in diameter. As he had always been curious about them exploding in the heat, he whittled through the ball deep enough so he could break it open. He swears that there was an object in the center, round and black, which glowed dully in the sunlight. He eventually lost it, but was certain it was a black pearl. If so, which is very logi-

cal, it would indicate that all this dry country was an ocean bed at one time. Dad ruined many a knife trying to find another 'pearl'. I for one believed his idea, though we never were successful in making another strike." /Signed/ K. Bodenhamer, Portland, Oregon. (FATE, October 1952, pp. 128-129)

Finally, we have a brief caption under a photograph of nine such stone balls which goes as follows:—

"MYSTERIOUS MONOLITHS. There could be a geological explanation for the sandstone balls pictured here (averaging about 16" in diameter — Editor), which were discovered by a highway crew near Hornbrook, California, but it is not immediately evident (sic). Joseph Wales, President of the Siskiyou County Historical Society (above) and Eugene Dowling, of Yreka (Eureka — Editor) study the Unusual phenomena. (Note: there is only one gentleman shown in the picture which is credited to ACME — Editor). The mysterious monoliths were blasted out of solid rock (italics ours), and apparently are incredibly ancient."

That these were blasted out of solid rock is most impressive, but if they are natural inclusions in some form of conglomerate, and were originally themselves of natural "geological" origin, we are constrained to ask a number of pertinent questions. First, what rock? Second, what sandstone were they composed of, and were they all of the same stone? Third, by what geological process could they have been made? Fourth, how did anybody know they were "incredibly ancient", and by what dating method? By the same token, we would like to know what happened to them; and this we are now pursuing through another of our most 'revered' members, Basil Hritsco (165) who just happens to reside in Hornbrook!

Now, there is a well-known 'geological' — but better called petrological and/or mineralogical — structure known as a geode. Many of these are perfectly spherical; they run up to many inches in diameter; they are found all over the world and in a very wide range of formations and strata of many ages; they have been known for centuries, and are so common that there are even stores catering to rock-hounds which specialize in them; and just about nothing can be found out about them in any encyclopedia or even standard geological, petrological, or mineralogical texts. For a couple of bucks you can get any that you buy in said stores cut in half, taking pot-luck on what you find inside. They may be solid or hollow, or have a fossil rolling about in them, or more often be lined with beautiful crystals, notably of quartz tending to the amethysts. Nobody has come up with a satisfactory suggestion as to just how they were formed except that they are 'petrified' concretions (speaking technically) and were originally formed of clay or mud that was rolled about on beaches composed of other material, by waves and tides. It is true that such spherical mud or clay balls may be found in limited localities all over the world today, and especially where there are strata of clay in cliffs above sand beaches. They also appear on mudflats at low tide off mangrove swamps. But, these things are never homogeneous but are true concretions constructed in layers one within the other like old-fashioned golf balls.

The only suggestion for the natural production of homogeneous rock balls that we have heard of and that makes any sense is that they are boulders which got lodged in what are called potholes on the rock bottoms of backwaters of streams with strong main currents or in the floors of caves into which torrents periodically flowed. These potholes are themselves very mysterious as they may indeed be perfectly spherical and yet have only comparatively small entrances on top center. It is a very rare event to find a single stone in one, and it has always been assumed that they are scoured out by fine gravel, coarse sand, and/or silt, and in times of flood. (Incidentally, they are also very common, upside down, on the roofs of caves, but that is another enigma.) Could there have been vast potholes in large caves into which enormous subangular boulders dropped and which were then ground round and round for centuries, in a manner similar to the manufacture of ball-bearings, until they were perfectly spherical? Water has terrific dynamic power. But how do they get out of their dungeons and onto the surface?

Anyhow, homogeneous stone spheres have now turned up in Cedar Point, near Mendota, Illinois. The first was found by one Mr. Ted Braun while hunting mushrooms. It was half sunk into a stream bank and on being dug out led to the discovery of some Amerindian artefacts. It "appears to be of granite", weighs 70 lbs., and has a circumference of 34 inches. It is perfectly spherical. Actually, it is of "finegrained brown stone". Photographs were submitted to (rather delightfully) Dr. Von Stone of the department of anthropology at the Field Museum in Chicago who stated that judging from these photos alone, the stone was not of Indian origin and must therefore have been an ornament of pioneer make. Barney Nashold adds to this: "I took this to be an admission that the stone was worked by man".

Despite the further facts that a large tile was found in the bank nearby and that there was also a

concrete slab that appeared to be a footing for a bridge not remembered by anybody in the area, the notion of "pioneers" having the time or inclination to peck out 70-pound spheres and then adorn a tiny bridge with them a century ago, seems to us to be somewhat exaggerated. Barney Nashold is looking into this further.

Another spherical stone, but with evidence of having had a pedestal or stem only recently broken off, turned up on a beach on the southern shore of Lake Superior near the mouth of the Brule River. It is said to have first been spotted by a Miss Sandra Koskie and a Mr. Dick Sydle who drew the attention of Mr. Roy A. Johnson of nearby Maple to it. He took it back to his house where he has carefully preserved it. It is 50 inches in circumference but extremely heavy and estimated to weigh about 200 pounds. It has an off-equatorial belt of squarish holes lined with some black deposit, separated by light ridges. Above and below this are said to be pittings such as are seen on some stony meteorites. The fractured "stem" is a circular depression with a sharp raised edge on one side, and about four inches in diameter. Howard Peddle knows Mr. Johnson and has examined the stone several times and obtained some excellent photographs of it which we have forwarded to Andrew Rothovius (100) and Bob Stone (no less!) of NEARA — see Cumulative Bibliography, below.

Two theories as to the origin of this object seem to prevail. One is that it is man-made, the other that it is of meteoric origin; the latter due mostly to its excessive weight for its size. Howard Peddle currently leans to the opinion that it is manmade and he suggests that it might have come to the locality among stone ballast in a ship from England as there was once a settlement there from which lumber was exported. Somewhat similar stone balls are occasionally found on the south coast of England where they have been tentatively explained as Roman ballista shot, some of which are known to have weighed up to 300 lbs. and to have been hurled by the mighty Onager up to 500 yards.

MECHANICAL DOWSING

Another set of experiments that were prosecuted some years ago at HQ (but before the establishment of S.I.T.U.) were devised to prove that dowsing does not need a human operative. This is not to say that the mechanics may not be reproduced using a human being — or even an animal, or a plant, which is also under experimentation as a separate project — rather than a machine. These experiments seemed to have been conclusive but we hesitated to publish in the absence of carefully controlled replication, duplication, or reduplication at other locations at the time, and also due to the number of technical refinements that were suggested by the engineers who participated. We are now moving towards such replication at HQ. The initial experiments were set up as follows (in brief): —

The essence of these was simply that a taut wire was stretched, from exactly north to south and precisely horizontal to the center of the earth, over 150 feet, five feet off the ground, between two 4"x4" posts sunk four feet into the ground and braced with pegged wires with turnbuckles behind. On this was suspended a small clockwork 'motor' with simple apparatus beneath it to carry two "L" rods*, sufficiently 'seized' as not to be blown about, but be free enough to move on other outside impulse.

This wire was erected over a front lawn under which three pipes ran almost at right angles from the house to wells or drains below at about a 20-ft. drop. These were: —

- (a) an iron pipe carrying water from a kitchen sink that could be empty, or have running water in it.
- (b) an iron pipe from a dug well that was perpetually filled with standing water when the pump in the house was not running.
- (c) a ceramic drain pipe (4" in diameter) normally dry but into which water could be poured by hand or hose.

When the clockwork machine was wound up and set on the wire, all personnel was removed to either one side or other, some 250 feet (this was in a small valley), and observed the action with binoculars from both sides.

Results: In every run, the "L"s moved exactly as predicted. There were numerous permutations — viz: standing water, water being pumped uphill, water running downhill, empty iron pipes, empty

* "L" rods are just that, and may be made of almost any substance — glass, plastic, copper, brass, and so forth, though welding rod seems to be the most sensitive. In human manipulation, they are held upright by the shorter tynes and with the long ones pointing forward, parallel to each other and as horizontally as possible. They have been used in arsenals for years to locate pipes and cables laid below thick concrete floors that have been lost on building blueprints. They work with anybody, and unfailingly.

ceramic pipes, et alia. This was accomplished completely without human touch or interference.

This is an appeal to any members who might be able to duplicate these experiments, not only to do so but to keep the most careful records with photographic and cinematographic coverage. The experimenters and invited observers should be asked to sign their reports and have them affidavited. We will supply a mimeographed set of instructions for setting up the experiment. This may be of a great deal more importance than you think, since the military have been using the crude human method in Viet Nam to detect ammunitions caches, tunnels, and mines, etc; and a demonstration that more precise, safe, and reliable results can be obtained with a simple mechanical device would not only save lives but provide a very potent defensive mechanism.

We might point out here that the existence of dowsing in nature has been right under our noses since ever, but the matter has always been pushed into the realm of the mystical and kooky. The chemiphsicists have merely sneered at it and nobody seems to have even asked the biologists to take a hand. So how, may we ask, do plant roots unerringly find water and sometimes up to hundreds of feet distant; and how do desert animals, all the way from insects to human beings — the Bushmen and the Australoids — do likewise? Further, it does not matter what any physicist may say, a linear stretch of water — and possibly other substances — is surrounded by a cylindrical force-field of some kind that diminishes in intensity at right angles by the square of the distance. Whether non-linear bodies of water are similarly surrounded is another matter. Further, there is a recordable difference between standing and running water. So let us get human beings, and especially the kooks, psychologists, and even the ESP boys, out of it, and get on with the job.

MORE GLOBSTERS

In February of 1962 a most colossal uproar broke out in the press initially in Tasmania but which then spread all over the world via the wire services. The most incredible rubbish was published about this business by just about everybody, ranging from absolutely topnotch professional zoologists and government scientists and technologists, to the most ragged little newspapers. It finally ended up in FATE Magazine, for August of 1962. The item in question was a vast glob of allegedly hair-covered flesh. Now another such object has turned up on a beach on the East Cape of North Island, New Zealand. This was described by the AUCKLAND STAR as follows: —

WHAT IS IT? Theories on this object slowly sinking into soft sand on Muriwai Beach varied today from "a sea monster" through to it being an unusual elephant which had died at sea. The monster is 15 miles up the beach. It is 20 feet long and has a tough $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick hide. Under this is a thin layer of what appears to be fat, then solid meat. Protruding about three feet above the sand, which is slowly engulfing it, it is covered with sand-matted grey hair four to six inches long. Cut from the hide and washed clean, the hair has a soft woolly texture. Shown photographs today, Auckland University's zoology department head, Professor J. E. Morton, said: "You can rule out whales because of the hair, and you can rule out sea elephants and sea cows because of its size. I can't think of anything it resembles." Marine and Forestry Department officials are also mystified by it. Other zoo, museum and university experts were unable to get to the beach to examine it today. A Marine Department officer, who first saw the hairy shapeless mass more than a week ago, says it then measured 30ft. by about 8ft. A senior forestry officer who saw it yesterday said he at first thought the monster might be a whale. "But where have you ever seen a whale in a fur coat?" he asked.

This is perfectly splendid as monster stories go, since it actually gives some facts and some technically trained persons (in at least some expertise) actually went and looked at it. However, it contains the usual quota of drivel, when it comes to theorizing. In fact one statement constitutes a new classic of the very highest order; to wit, the statement underlined above. From this, one engages the delightful vision of a hairy elephant (of which there aren't any) paddling furiously across the Indian, South Atlantic, and South Pacific Oceans intent upon beaching on the shores of sunny but cool New Zealand. We are surprised that some buffoon did not this time suggest that it was the remains of "a hairy mammoth melted out of an Arctic glacier" as was opined by a doctor of zoology in the last Tasmanian case. The other fine innuendo is contained in Professor Morton's observation, though this doubtless went over the heads of all but vertebrate zoologists. We refer to the near-classic: "You can rule out whales because of the hair, and you can rule out sea-elephants and sea-cows because of its size." It's the second phrase that contains the nonsense.

First, Sea-Elephants can grow to about 20-ft but they have no more hair than the whales. Second, Sea-Cows (i.e. Sirenians) are also hairless but for bristly whiskers. Thus the statement is a non sequitor. What the man means is simply that we don't as yet know of any marine animal of that size that has a full hair covering. A much more pertinent question is, was it real and true hair or was it the shredded fibers of blubber leached of all fatty tissue, which looks so like hair and is common to long-dead beached whales? Was any preserved, and if so where is it? In accordance with our motto, we are pursuing this matter furiously and will report.

In the meantime, a splendid little publication named THE LOG published by the Explorers Trademart, Ltd., in Silver Springs, Md. dredged up a couple more hairy Globster cases which were reported by Michael Harvey briefly in their April, 1968 issue, Vol. II, No. 4 as follows: -

"A Mr. Paul Terry, of Marrickville, wrote to the Sydney Sun saying that he discovered a similar monster on Dunk Island in 1948. "It was like a huge jellyfish, with several slits and no eyes, and had tough skin, covered with fur. A Government scientist looked at it and said he was sure it was a malformed embryo whale. It took four of us ten days to get rid of it. We tried to burn it with petrol, but it wouldn't burn. It was a huge carcass and must have weighed tons. Finally, we broke it up by using explosives and axes. Most of it we dumped three miles out to sea well away from the sharks."

Two Melbourne men, Neil Rogers and Hilton Nicholas, also netted something akin to "The Thing" in 1958. Mr. Rogers described it as shaped like a bowler hat with a tail on it. It was about 6-feet high and weighed about half to three-quarters of a ton. It had a thick, smooth, un-hairy leathery hide, grey-white on the underside, and a dirty grey brown on the top. The "monster" showed no signs of life when they dragged it ashore. They could not see any mouth or eyes, nor did it have flippers or fins. They were so intrigued with their catch they took color pictures of it. When they returned to Hobart, they reported it to the marine authorities, who could not identify it.

The remains of yet another mysterious "creature" have been found on a lonely beach 23-miles east of Hopetoun, 362-miles southeast of Perth, Australia. So far there has been no rush by scientists to view this "Hopetoun monster" but a party of farmers made a rough trip by jeep to take pictures of it. It is described as about 8-feet, by 4-feet, by 4-feet deep, covered with long, coarse brown hair, seven inches long. It has what appears to be part of a neck three feet long, and a whitened skull about 12-inches wide, by 4-inches thick. The original find was made in January."

It is manifest that something has to be done about these Globsters and the man to do it is Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans, our Adviser (58) who, we are happy to announce, will be paying his first visit to the United States this coming October for the publication of his new and monumental tome on Sea Monsters.

A S.I.T.U. EXPEDITION

We have just concluded detailed plans and budget for a SITU expedition to Centroamerica. Should this be activated as currently promised, we will of course be reporting fully. There is one of the twenty principal locations to be investigated that is, however, of particular interest and should be mentioned now in case members particularly interested in archaeology might wish to obtain prior information. This is an area of several square miles - the exact limits not known, as nobody has ever taken the trouble to survey them - of flint axe-, spear-, and arrow-heads, scrapers, burins, flakes and so forth, covering the surface of a level, loam-covered terrain without any natural local stones, and overlying friable limestone-marl. No flint (or chert or obsidian) is to be found within 300 miles of this location, yet so massive is this 'deposit' of hand-worked stones that they may be shovelled up by the bucketfull and were used as road-bedding over several miles in the mid-1930s.

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SOCIETY NEWS

Second Quarterly Board Meeting, 1968

This was held at the Society Research Center, Columbia, New Jersey, on the 1st and 2nd of June. Once again, the planned schedule for the quarterly meetings could not be strictly adhered to, due to various causes that prevented the majority of the members attending the 30th April meeting. Since all members of the Board are otherwise employed, and so many of them in the news business which is completely unpredictable, it is extremely difficult to gather even a quorum on any specified date. Such dates are: the nearest Saturday to the 30th of January, April, July, and October. However, the next meeting is scheduled for the 24th and 25th of August, and we hope to hold the fourth in New York about the end of November.

Present at the last meeting were: — President, Oliver G. Swan; Director, Ivan T. Sanderson; Deputy Director, Edgar O. Schoenenberger; Treasurer, Alma V. Sanderson; Secretary, Edna L. Currie; Editor, Hans Stefan Santesson; and Promotion Manager, Jack A. Ullrich. Walter J. McGraw could not attend due to very serious illness in his family, and Peter Kamitchis was rushed to a clinic the night before with an aggravated dental abscess. At the last minute, John Keel "got the call" and, being in the news business, had to answer it.

The Board, as legally constituted, has eleven members, the Chairman of the day having a decisive vote in case of a tie. As of this meeting we were short one member, due to the resignation of Mr. Desmond Slattery. The names of three members who had offered to serve were put before the board and by unanimous vote Mr. William F. Peck, Jr., was elected. Bill Peck is in the optical business, and has greatly aided our efforts in the past in various ways, both technically and from a business point of view. A number of resolutions were passed.

In view of the very generous donation of stock by one of our original sponsors, the treasurer was instructed to set up new books and have a complete audit done before the next meeting. This stock, of a leading publishing house, is being held in trust. In view of this, the creation of a separate Trust to handle bequests and investments which was in the process of being set up, is being held in abeyance. Under the laws of New Jersey, the Board is termed, and actually is, a Board of Trustees. Thus, it is empowered to handle finance, as well as policy and other routine matters.

Membership: This has been transferred to headquarters — now to be called the Research Center — in New Jersey, and put under the joint auspices of the Treasurer and the Assistant to the Director since our Secretary is resident in New York and holds a very responsible position in one of the leading hospitals which, combined, made it impossible for her to maintain the day to day routine. Not only new membership but services to members, correspondence with the Scientific Advisory Board, and other matters have to pass through headquarters in any case. Membership has made an unexpected leap forward, which has necessitated some very urgent and solid planning. The law of diminishing returns applies very forcibly to the activities of an organization such as ours and unless such is properly set up to handle the volume, and well in advance, the whole effort can either become reduced to complete chaos or forced to an untimely end.

A strong plea was made to the Board to search out new potential members, bearing in mind that ours is not the sort of organization that can put on the standard type of promotional drive. The classic "Send One Dollar" (but not saying for what) is not for us; and all joining us should do so through personal initiative and desire and only after they have apprised themselves of our intent, appraised our performance, and satisfied themselves of our potential value to their special interests.

Personnel: During 1967, Miss Susan Brown was employed by the director as a personal assistant in his own work. She volunteered to devote her overtime to the Society and, at the end of the summer season stayed on at the Research Center as official Assistant to the Director to handle society affairs. Sue left us on the 12th April, and the same day Miss Marion Fawcett joined us. Susan Brown left to take advanced computer programming courses and then to go to Europe. Marion Fawcett, an oldtime correspondent and member, has worked in hospital administration, as a technical editor of medical texts, and was, until she joined us, Secretarial Assistant to the Librarian of the American Philosophical Society. Marion has taken charge of all executive aspects of the Society's work, thus freeing the director for other duties. She is thus handling all data reception, its preliminary processing — analysis being handled by Peter Kamitchis, and special items then forwarded to the appropriate members of the Scientific Advisory Board — and outgoing replies. Material for dissemination via publication is also preliminarily prepared at HQ and then channeled to Editor, Hans Stefan Santesson.

Establishment: Edgar Schoenenberger reported on the current status of our properties and, despite a rather furious letter — from a non-member we may say — this should be reported. Said letter stated bluntly that the correspondent could not care less how many dog-pens we had, and so forth. It should

therefore be stated quite clearly that we consider such items of just as much importance as the acquisition of new books and reports. The founding members, and a very high percentage of those who have joined subsequently, have contributed endless hours of manual labor to our effort. In fact, we have literally built all that we have with our own hands, and this goes for things like dog-pens as well as office furniture, laboratories, and book-binding machinery. We are proud of this fact, and it appears there are still a lot of people who respect what used to be called "the dignity of labor". Furthermore, dog-pens are essential to our efforts in breeding pedigreed Retrievers for the SEEING-EYE, which is our principal charitable enterprise.

The current situation regarding our properties was simply summed up by Eddie Schoenenberger in the age-old howl...MONEY. The specific reason on this occasion is equally simple; namely that we are literally bursting at the seams! The old house is now lined from floor to ceiling in every room — and there are eight — with bookshelves, wherever there is a fragment of space between essential furnishings.

We have seven possible outlets for immediate expansion, and apart from the large projected Research Center Building that was described in the last issue. The status of these is as follows: —

(1) The Annex. This is a 60 x 20 ft, concrete, one-story building 200 feet behind the old house. It is divided into 20' x 20', and 20' x 40' rooms, the latter with a garage door. A concrete floor has now been laid in this by Eddie and his father, a master stone mason, and other voluntary labor. A larger room is for storage; the smaller is to be lined-out and set up as a bed-sitting room with office facilities and bookshelves as a library extension. Non-reference works have already been moved there. The larger room is already almost filled with items taken from (2), (3), and (4) below, which includes animal handling equipment, cages, and so forth.

(2) The Attic. There is a 35 x 20 ft attic in the old house that has a six foot high peaked roof. This is dry and well ventilated, and is to be floored, lined, and ceilinged for storage of periodicals in bulk.

(3) The Cellar. This is also 35 x 20 feet, with a concrete floor. It has just been cleared, and now houses a workshop with wood and metal working tools; electrical supplies; and storage space for excess stationery and other stock which has overflowed from the Stockroom upstairs.

(4) The Tool-Shed. This was constructed two years ago to house a new large lawn mower. It had to be reconstructed to make room for an extraordinary amount of other garden and farm tools and machinery. All such has now been moved from all other places through which it was (illogically) scattered.

(5) The Potting-Shed. This is actually a sprung-steel, city bus body, stripped inside, painted, and set up as a laboratory — and a better bargain the Society never got! As of now, one end is set up as a general biological lab; the rest, on the one side as a potting-shed, and on the other for our work with "Natural Treasures" — an enterprise that will be reported on at another time.

(6) The Field Lab. This is another, identical, city bus, still on its wheels, and with a functional steering wheel. It was once fitted out as the ticket-booth, reception room, and office for our private zoo. It is being refitted as a mobile laboratory as it already has toilet, shower, a heating unit, air-conditioning, a refrigerator, cooking stove, a small bedroom and closets and all other facilities for one or two people. The intention is that this can be moved around our land, or towed elsewhere by a tractor for the convenience of students undertaking field work.

(7) An Office Extension. This is the most urgently needed item of all. While there must presumably be an end to juggling needed material and machinery, we still have some space to fill in existing buildings, as outlined above. But, one thing that we cannot achieve with any amount of ingenuity is enhanced working and library space for reference material. And this we have just got to have. There is only one possibility, and this is to build a 20' x 20' extension to the present office (going south) which is the only direction in which we can do so without blocking out light, and where heat and other service facilities can be hooked to the existing outlets without undue expense. Plans for this are drawn, but when we came to compute the cost, even EOS who is in the construction business, was truly horrified. In view of these hard facts, we decided to go out deliberately and seek special funds for this item.

Library: Marion Fawcett reported to the Board on recent additions to the library and files. Fifty-two books had been added and three collections of periodicals. Members are urged to donate, or obtain from others, any works they do not need, have no room for, or wish to be housed. The most important item in MLF's report was, however, the status of the filing. There are now 84 ring-binders in which about three-quarters of the fortean material has been arranged. There are still four 4-drawer filing cabinets to come, containing the rest of the fortean, a mass of semi-forteant, and straight scientific material. After that there are three files of cut-pictures and photographs; the map collection; and the 'separates' which are being catalogued and then boxed according to subjects. The periodicals have

been completed. The four correspondence files have finally been gleaned, sorted, dated, and stapled.

Publication: As is explained under the title "Publishing Schedule" on the inside of the back cover, the Newsletter, *per se*, has now been discontinued. Society news will be confined to this column in each quarterly issue of PURSUIT. This periodical has been, and will continue to be enlarged, and its numbering brought into line with a quarterly — so that numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8 will represent 1969. The new heavier-stock cover contains only permanent material and so can be detached before filing or binding the main body of the text. The pagination as of next year will be continuous.



CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

This column was initiated in a very haphazard manner but, as reported in our last issue, the response was so overwhelmingly acceptable that we decided to make it a regular feature. However, sooner or later — and probably by the next 30th January, 1969 issue, which will be No. 5 — all items listed to that date will have to be reissued, as a supplement, in some semblance of order. We believe that this may be accomplished in the form of the standard two listings — by subject, and by author. From then on, new titles would automatically find their place in a cumulative catalogue. Periodicals will from now on be treated as single items.

We have accumulated a very long list of "preferred reading" while cataloguing our own library and going through our files. However, this is being reserved for the next issue, which will probably be a supplementary one, numbered 4-A, and will be devoted, to a considerable extent, to bibliographic matters and to publishing. Therefore, we herewith list Periodicals of special interest to fortians.

(1) **Scientific Journals.** An increasing number of such periodicals are quietly publishing papers having wildly fortian content, and/or findings and hypotheses of a very advanced nature. Among these are SCIENCE of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the British NATURE; but most outstanding is probably ENDEAVOUR, issued free to registered scientists only, by Imperial Chemical Industries of the U.K. For more specialized interests, it is most desirable that members subscribe to or peruse regularly any and all journals dealing with their subjects, as incredible information is now turning up in the most prosaic quarters, and notably among the engineering fraternity.

(2) **Popular Science.** Highly recommended are the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, SCIENCE NEWS, and SCIENCE DIGEST. These are essential as ready, up-to-date reference as to what is going on, though the first is somewhat pompous, the second somewhat erratic, and the third somewhat corny while it leans over backwards to debunk anything and everything that does not fit into established acceptance during the previous decade.

(3) **Popular Publications.** Those that cover fortian items from time to time in this country are, ARGOSY, FATE, SAGA, TRUE, and, curiously, the NATIONAL ENQUIRER. All are primarily geared to other interests, notably FATE which emphasizes and is almost wholly devoted to mysticism, the occult, and other matters falling in Segment No. VIII of the classification which we use, named Mentality. The weekly newspaper, the NATIONAL ENQUIRER, presents a curious case. It has been steadily drawing away from sex and mayhem over the years and now publishes articles of some considerable depth and intelligence and often under established names in science and technology. They do a very good reporting job, and a two-year check has shown that most of their references now hold up, so that they are a valuable source for further enquiry.

(4) **Society Journals.** Of the now enormous and positively seething mass of periodicals and newsletters, a few stand out as being eminently sane and worthwhile. Among these, we recommend for those interested in the UFO phenomenon the A.P.R.O. BULLETIN, issued by the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, of 3910 East Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona; the U.F.O. INVESTIGATOR, issued by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.; but above all, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, of 21 Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, London W.C.2, England. For the historical and archaeological buffs, the excellent small publication entitled NEARA NEWSLETTER, published quarterly by the New England Antiquities Research Association, of 4 Smith Street, Milford, New Hampshire, is thoroughly recommended. Finally, the only wholly and completely fortian publication that we know of is entitled THE INFO JOURNAL, published by the International Fortian Organization, 801 North Daniel Street, Arlington, Virginia.

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

For the information of librarians in particular, we would like to put on record an explanation of the sequence and numbering of our publications. When an organization is starting out, there is almost invariably some unavoidable confusion due to the necessity for changes brought about by the growth of the organization and the evolution of its intent. We had always envisaged, from the outset, the publication of a journal but, due to the prolonged vicissitudes of organization, we deemed it advisable to issue Newsletters in the meantime to keep members apprised of what was going on. We did not expect this phase to be so prolonged — August, 1965 to April, 1967 — but today many extraneous matters have to be attended to if any organization is to be properly established and all rules and regulations complied with. Thus, we issued two Newsletters — numbered 1 and 2 — on the 30th May, 1967; and the 30th March, 1968. The third, appropriately numbered 3, was issued on the 1st of June, 1968. This was named "PURSUIT".

The current issue is the second issue of this Quarterly Journal, under the name of "PURSUIT" but is numbered No. 4 for convenience. It incorporates what would otherwise have been the contents of a fourth newsletter, in pages 18 and 19 of this issue. From now on the newsletter, per se, will be discontinued.

The new format of PURSUIT is designed for easy separation and filing or binding. The new heavier-stock cover records nothing but that which is normally called the "masthead" on a magazine, at the front; and working information, such as this, on the inside of the back-flap. The contained material is paginated separately, from 1 to 20 in this issue; but, starting with the first issue in 1969 — No. 5 — will be continuously paginated throughout the year.

The Society has reached a number of agreements for reciprocity in exchange of periodical publications with organizations of like size and standing. For larger organizations and for libraries, PURSUIT is available at a standard rate of \$1.50 per issue, including postage, or the annual rate of \$5.00 for four issues and any subsidiary or intermediate issues or incidental papers.

"Science is the pursuit of the unknown"

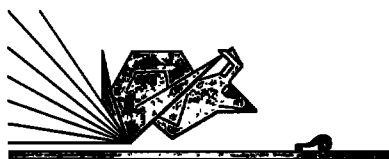
PURSUIT

JOURNAL

of

**The Society For The Investigation
Of The Unexplained**

... For the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of
information on new discoveries in the natural sciences



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**THE SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION
OF THE UNEXPLAINED**

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Persons wishing to join as Corresponding Members are asked to submit along with their application a brief summary of their interests, with whatever details of their biography they might be prepared to place in an open file. This is for the benefit of other members. All requests must be made in writing and should be as specific as possible. The Society is unable to offer or render any service whatsoever to non-members.

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EDITORIAL

Charles Fort was christened "The Arch Enemy of Science" by the press even before his first book was published. However, the fourth estate often displays near genius for misinterpretation, despite its praiseworthy worship of fact and its constant assertion that accuracy is its goal, and this epithet constitutes a classic misnomer. Nothing could be farther from the truth or more opposite to fact. Fort was probably the best ally true science ever had. His barbs, needles, and blasts were directed at something quite else. He was in fact one of the first "protesters" in the new age of protest, and his arch enemies were stupidity and chicanery — stupidity displayed by those who ought to know better, and chicanery by those who claimed to know better. Fort never laughed at the uneducated or sneered at the non-specialist, but he went after the latter if they brayed about specialities. This took care of the kooks, krooks, and krackpots. He reserved his heavy guns for the so-called specialists and self-appointed "experts". And it was here that he fingered the raw spot in our culture. Today, everybody is protesting against something, though nobody seems to be able to define just what it is they are protesting about, and none has any plans for a workable substitute — apart from unworkable anarchy of one sort or another. Fort, just like certain others who went before — the Essene whom the Greeks called Christos; the Gautama Buddha; Lao-Tze, and such — did offer an alternative; to wit, common sense, logic, and honesty. This may all sound very "high fallutin" but his could well still be the only truly worthwhile protest.

Whether we like it or not, all of humanity today is living in a technological civilization, no matter whether we are still chipping stones in inner New Guinea, commuting to Madison Avenue or to the Kremlin, or starving in a ghetto. Science with its handmaiden technology, using proper scientific methodology, is actually aspiring not just to control nature but to create an ever-widening substitution for it; and this has created a very brittle situation. Consider for a moment the cutting off of our petroleum fuel supplies in any one area. There are no horses or oxen to speak of any more, so with what are we going to plough? And where is the seed corn; and how do we get it to the farm? By dog sled? And who has wood for stoves if the oil gives out; and who can survive the winter cold in northern climes when you are starving because the shelves at the supermarket were long since swept clear of packaged goods? We don't need a cobalt- or lithium-bomb; just one major breakdown in one technological field can start a much surer chain-reaction.

Fort did not protest this evolution in human behaviour. His complaint was the behaviour of its proponents and implementers, and notably the pontificators and self-appointed experts.

Scientists don't usually make stupid pronouncements though they may unduly hedge themselves around with qualifications. And here comes another deplorable and terrifying aspect of our culture; namely, the almost universal genius for ignoring the qualifying word. Example: the press states flatly that professor so-and-so said that there is life on other planets, when what the poor man actually said was that there could be life of our own or other forms on some planets going around stars in other parts of our galaxy or even in other galaxies. Take the case of the Globsters mentioned in our last issue. Here somebody who ought to have known better was reported (please note) to have said that if

was perhaps "an unusual elephant that had died at sea". But then, this expert must needs go on and make fatuous remarks about whales and sirenians; and, on further enquiry, we learned that the same expert finally said that it was nothing but a hunk of highly decomposed whale. This sort of thing ill becomes scientists; so, for pity's sake, can't such real experts, who ought to know what they are talking about, shut up until they have some solid facts to offer; and then offer them with some concrete evidence? In this case, either this object was a hunk of dead whale, or it was not. Either it was covered with true hair or it was not. This is the kind of tripe that confuses the non-specialist, fools the uneducated, gives the press an unwarranted chance to misinterpret, and increasingly denigrates so-called "science" and true scientists.

But it is not even such lapses as these that constitute the principal cause of alarm. It is rather the almost universal attitude of both real experts, alleged "experts", and more so of all juniors towards anything new, novel, or unexpected. As Fort used to say, any such are immediately "damned" and by everybody who has been trained in scientific methodology and/or any who claim to have been, and by all their sycophants, even unto the fourth estate. Why do they do this?

The latter question has been asked with ever increasing frequency during the past century but nobody has ever come near approaching any valid answers, let alone a single overall one, though the universal cause seems to be clear. This would appear to be primarily fear of the unknown, which is, of course, the basis of religion. Stemming from this is fear of not knowing, which is just as manifestly the ruling tenet of priesthoods and hierarchies of all kinds, and thus of all establishments. As a result, the first reaction of anybody who thinks he knows about things, and notably specialized departments of knowledge, on being confronted with some (and especially a concrete) unexplained item, is to "explain it away" — hence Charles Fort's recognition of the "wipe" by orthodoxy as a whole — and, if this too fails, he with his colleagues and consorts just as invariably states that "We knew it all the time".

A related and really much greater mystery is not only why but how all members of the scientific establishment, who have not yet achieved the uppermost levels of the pinnacle, without exception concur, and even without consultation, invariably to deride any suggestion that does not conform to a certain pattern. There is then the further mystery as to just what this pattern is, who laid it down in the first place, and how said people can all interpret it in so exactly a similar way. For instance, when Kenneth Arnold first stated that he had encountered a number of shiny, apparently metallic, lenticular aeroforms manoeuvring around Mt. Rainier in bright sunlight, the entire scientific and technological community of the world immediately declared, and for the record, that he was either drunk, hallucinated, a plain liar, or had observed some hot-air inversions or some such nonsense. When sane people started reporting having seen large unidentified animals in Loch Ness, the same coterie immediately attributed their statements to similar causes except that they substituted (be it noted) a form of marsh gas for the hot air! And it is the same with everything else that crops up which is not in the scientific establishment's bloody textbooks.

The real danger lies in that these self-appointed or allegedly trained experts are virtually hysterical, and will go to any lengths, even criminal on occasion, to blast the beastly thing out of existence. These were the people old Charlie Fort was after, and it is their behaviour that we, as neo-fortean, protest. We are the arch enemies of all those creatures who, just because they have learned a scientific litany, besmirch the name of their own holy cow — scientific methodology. And, to the extent that their establishment endorses their shenanigans, we protest its culpability. But we are all for "science" and true scientists; and science after all is the pursuit of the unknown.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- * As stated in our previous issue, the abbreviation S.I.T.U. has been officially adopted as the designation of our Society.
- * The membership number of all those mentioned in the text of PURSUIT, or in any other publication of the Society, will always be given in parentheses for the benefit of any wishing to contact them through us.
- * No public or private opinions or statements, by members, either verbal or in print or by hand, may be construed as expressing those of the Society unless permission has been granted in writing prior to such issuance

CURRENT EVENTS

From now on items will be arranged according to the eight major categories of knowledge, and in the order as listed in our Brochure and Elaboration of Interests.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| I. MATHEMATICS | V. GEOLOGY |
| II. COSMOLOGY | VI. BIOLOGY |
| III. CHEMIPHYSICS | VII. ANTHROPOLOGY |
| IV. ASTRONOMY | VIII. MENTALOGY |

The Sections will be numbered, omitting those in which no current items fall.

II - COSMOLOGY

THE CURRENT STATUS OF UFOLOGY

Whatever the findings of the Condon Committee may be — and its report should be released before this issue reaches you — we are currently living through a most interesting period, and not only of ufological history but of intellectual development as a whole. In fact, we should endeavour to grasp the real significance of current events in this field and their overall impact on our thinking. This is actually as near a renaissance as humanity has undergone since the great awakening five hundred years ago. Innumerable new discoveries made by the exercise of scientific methodology have contributed to this but, regardless of whether it is all fact or fancy, it is ufology that must be credited with having forced the breakthrough; and credit for this is due to a small band of dedicated specialists in this field.

We are sick nearly unto death with the picayune squabbles of the various parties to this enquiry, ranging as they do from starry-eyed mystics to what are still considered 'renegade' scientists, and we do not agree wholeheartedly with any of them. Nonetheless, all have contributed something to the more general and much greater cause of intellectual stimulation and worthwhile speculation. Even if the whole business of "flying saucers", "little green men", official bungling, hot air inversions, swamp gases, and plasma balls are nothing more than illusory, the fact remains that their advocates have collectively implemented Archimedes' ancient plea; namely, "Give me a lever big enough and I will move the world". Practically speaking, these assorted types have, by their very persistence, forced both scholars and the general public to face up to the previously unsuspected possibilities of existence. Their efforts are, collectively, every bit as revolutionary as those of Galileo, Keppler, Herschel, Bacon, Newton and such ilk; for, what they have done is to force twentieth century established thinking into new channels. By this we mean that they have, by their very persistence, shoved everybody, and notably sciencedom, into at least admitting that there could be more to existence than has until now met their eyes.

Ufology itself is passing through a most interesting phase, and this on several counts. Most significant is the undeniable fact that, even if it has not become wholly respectable, it is being taken seriously and discussed very widely in both intellectual and technological circles. Who, even among ufologists, ever hoped a decade ago to see such exercises as the Condon Committee, Congressional hearings (vide: SYMPOSIUM ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, July 29, 1968), and/or papers on the subject read before such august and even hidebound organizations as the Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineers, the American Astronautical Society, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; and articles and letters by scientists in such publications as SCIENCE (see Dr. J. Allen Hynek, 21st Oct. 1966); or even mass circulation popular magazines such as LOOK, the SATURDAY REVIEW, TIME, and so forth, or, above all, in newspapers of such conservatism as the London and New York TIMES. The plain and undeniable fact is that as yet unexplained and/or unidentified objects reportedly observed in the sky and more especially landing on the earth or diving into oceans, seas, lakes and even rivers, simply will not go away. A Gallup poll startled even the 'believers' when it blandly stated that millions of Americans alone claim to have observed such things, and that several million more stated they knew people they trust who say they have seen them; and that still greater numbers were willing to state that they believe such things do exist. Even the scientific establishment can not any longer buck this tide of belief.

The actual status of ufology itself is currently more than ambiguous. For all the public statements, interest by scientists, official denials, and even the expressions of ufologists themselves, there is a cover-up. Despite the constant refrain by everybody, for the record, that we really cannot go any farther at present because we "haven't got one", there are positively swarms of people of the very

category that should know, going around talking glibly about the nature of 'specimens' that have been obtained and the incomprehensible items that have been found in them. Of living or robotic entities among these items, nothing is said or even offered, but this is possibly because these glib informers are all engineers or other technologists, and none are biologists. There is, however, just as much reason to suppose or assume that we have got some ufos as there is to accept the visual reports of them or even their very existence.

If nothing else were needed to demonstrate this possibility, the mere catalogue of cases wherein the armed services or other official outfits have swooped upon areas in which ufos have been reported to have landed and cordoned them off, ought to give anybody pause. And that these cases are not mere hearsay or irresponsible newspaper coverage is demonstrable by the fact that a very high percentage of them have been confirmed by police and other sheriffs, and not infrequently on the air. (We have transcripts on tape of several of these.) If all such reports that were so swooped upon turned out to be false alarms, officialdom would surely have given up the effort, and the cash outlay to investigate them, long ago. They have not; and, in fact, such activities have grown abundantly over the years. By the same token, official interest has most noticeably shifted from cataloguing and statistically analysing such things as funny lights reportedly seen in the night sky to interviewing in depth those people, however crazy they may sound, who let it be known that they have stumbled across an ufo on the ground, observed robotic or living entities coming out of such or entering it or even being around it, and even those who say that they met some 'alien' type of humanoid creature or even 'animal'.

The basic fact to comprehend is that, right or wrong, hallucinated or not, the millions of people who claim to have seen ufos or encountered them and/or their occupants have forced the scholars to at least a cognisance of the subject. Further, they have finally persuaded some better thinkers and even some true scientists to at least consider the matter and, above all, they have pushed educated humanity as a whole into contemplation of new possibilities for existence, apart from, and as well as, including this earth. Currently, our culture is writhing in some agony while ingesting this concept and mostly because we have not yet got over our age-old egocentric and terracentric outlook. The very idea that there could be intelligent life elsewhere or more especially that we are not God's chosen uniqueness is still abhorrent even to the average communist. Proof positive of either concept even at this stage would completely upset our intellectual apple cart; and officialdom knows this only too well.

Change comes slowly and breakthroughs take a long time to be accepted. A true renaissance in thinking takes over a century. The western world is only a little over two decades into this current one, so don't expect too much too fast.

III - CHEMIPHYSICS

POLTERGEISTS AS USUAL

We receive notice of an average of one poltergeist case per week, so what must the true world-wide volume be? This business has, as a whole, been going on since the dawn of history and everywhere, and yet even the best-educated people still express the same old mystifications regarding it. A classic example came in from Canada last July, from which we herewith quote a number of passages, out of context for deliberate reasons. The events described occurred in a two-storey frame house at a place called Wooler, near Belleville in Ontario, owned by a Mr. Fred Coulthard Sr. They included all the age-old items, such as unexplained noises, dishes flying about and, this time, an overwhelming odor of roses. (It is normally violets.) But it is the comments on the events that constitute the more interesting aspect of this case for reasons that we will explain in a moment. But first to so quote: -

- (1) "Whatever it is, Fred and his boys would like to find out. They say something at their two-storey frame house in Wooler, three miles west of Belleville, has: -Smashed windows, knocked dishes and tableware to the floor and terrified a pet cat; -Sent a tube of shampoo flying through the air; -Wrenched a glass of wine from the hand of Wayne Coulthard, 20, and smashed it; -Hurled a deck of playing cards at Wayne."
- (2) "Provincial police are interested, too."
- (3) "A lot of people around here won't believe us but they won't come and sit in the kitchen."
- (4) "The Rev. Gerard Sullivan, the Coulthards' parish priest at St. Adolphus Roman Catholic Church in Wooler, said he was convinced 'something was going on' but thought it might be someone 'playing tricks' on Coulthard."

(5) "But Coulthard (senior) said Fred checked around the house after the mysterious visits but could find no sign of any human callers."

(6) "He said he would welcome some authorities to investigate because he'd like to solve the mystery."

Here are all the same old hackneyed, nonsensical statements. When in doubt, call first the police — failing sufficient authority to call the Marines — then the press, then your friendly neighbourhood priest; and then, if all these fail, as they invariably do, try to rustle up a so-called parapsychologist; though what in heaven's name the last are supposed to know about physical phenomena has always been a complete mystery to us.

Of course what you really need are some physichemical technicians with every bit of recording equipment they can lay their hands on and can transport — fastest. But, even prior to their arrival, you need a forteen who has at least read the literature and, to be ideal, an assistant who should be a Malay person, preferably with a degree in biology. Your next move should be to toss out everybody except the family and one police detective, but ask the uniformed forces to ring the house, keep everybody off your property, mount floodlights, and keep an eagle eye out for pranksters, nuts, screwballs, and just plain ordinary citizens, with particular emphasis on known religious cranks. Then, you should try, as far as is possible, to make everybody shut up; but get the techs to set up their equipment as quietly as possible to cover as wide an angle as possible of the area in which manifestations have occurred. That done, get drinks for everybody and sit down and have a nice chat about anything other than the business on hand. The net results will, of course, probably be entirely nil!

The point is that so-called poltergeists are apparently "entities" and not just mere projections of moronic girls reaching puberty, mystically inclined young men at the same changeover time in their adolescence, or young marrieds writhing in some decent physical sexual activities for the first time. True, as the late Dr. Nandor Fodor pointed out, a very high proportion of poltergeistic physical manifestations do occur about such persons. Nonetheless, they also occur when none such are present, and often, as will appear from observations recorded later, when no persons (human) are about. The 'manifest' fact is that whatever entities cause these phenomena are in fact entities and probably possessed of an 'Id' or basic individual personality; very probably a 'mind' — i.e., an intellect of some kind; and maybe even what we call a 'brain', which is nothing but a (to us) bio-chemically constructed computer. Young adolescents, and young marrieds getting with it as the modern phrase has it, would appear to act merely as transmitters, just as, to oversimplify, an old-fashioned radio set collects patterned impulses and converts them into sound waves that are understandable to us. Which brings us to the desirability of having a Malay person along.

So-called poltergeist manifestations have always been so commonplace in Malaya, Indonesia, and the Philippines that nobody — and not even Europeans who lived there and were born there — paid the slightest attention to them. Then, a considerable number of Malayan people emigrated to what is now the Republic of South Africa. That area is just as rife with "P.Ms" (poltergeist manifestations) as any other part of the earth, but both the whites and the blacks there, while having brought some knowledge of such things from whence they came — the whites from Europe and the blacks from upper East Africa — kept more than quiet about the matter. (Can you imagine a founder of the Dutch Reformed Church allowing such "manifestations of the devil" as the uncontrolled breaking of priceless Delft porcelain? Can you imagine an Anglo, let alone a Boer, countenancing the deliberate teleportation of a pile of cow-dung by a Bantu medicine man?) But then came the Malays.

P.Ms. in South Africa have for decades been known as "Malay Tricks". Blacks and whites both wanted very badly to fob all this troublesome matter off on somebody else and, finding that the Malays took it all for granted, they immediately concurred in attributing the whole stinking business to them. This is indeed an old "trick"; if something happens that you cannot explain, but if there is somebody around who seems to be connected with it or who says that he can explain it, attribute its incidence to him! It's the old witch-hunting game all over again.

No; the fact we have to face is that whatever causes these P.Ms. are entities and probably what we call "living" ones. Where they come from, or what they are, or whether they have always resided here is another matter and probably best left to the mystics at this stage of our intellectual development. However, there is no reason why we cannot at least start to try to pin them down with what crude tools (electromagnetic and so forth) that we do have. Hence the admonitions and advices suggested above. And, in the case that we are herein discussing, some people actually did try to pin the little bastards down. Let us quote further from the bland newspaper reports of the case in question. These are very pertinent items, and they are most refreshing. We quote: —

(a) "Things got so scary over the past weekend that Mrs. Coulthard went to stay with friends in Trenton (Ontario) while her husband and sons tried to catch — or at least get a photograph of — the mysterious visitors.

Fred Jr., 24, an armed services corporal stationed at Petawawa, said that when he heard noises he came out of hiding and tried to take a picture, but all he could see was 'small, dark, heavy shadows'."

(b) "Neighbor Butch Mallory, 20, took a tape recorder in Tuesday night and picked up noises he called 'spirits' visitations'. He said the noises he recorded included sounds of spoons flying off the table while he was there.

The noises have continued, Coulthard said, despite crowds of as many as 35 visitors in his house some nights."

So, for once, somebody actually recorded some sounds and got some pixs of something. One is constrained to give a rousing cheer to the upcoming generation. But what to make of the pixs?

"Some dark heavy shadows"(?) How big? Where? Against what background? Lighting? What shape? Cast by what? Who said so, and where are the films? Please, nice young men, don't just throw out rubbish like this. Or was it the damned Fourth Estate again, unable even to conceive of anything that is not on a police blotter? Why does not somebody do something? And why must everybody go through all this age-old folderol when anything so ordinary as a PM occurs? If priests must opine that "somebody was playing tricks on Coulthard" why in all that is holy will they not even suggest how it was done, or ring up the Vatican and get a directive? And the poor police! Apparently, outside of Indonesia, not one has ever even heard of PMs during his or her training. And the parapsychologists — "para" (like) "psychologists" (yet)! What on earth can these poor hardworking specialists — still trying to get the other dolts to realize that the human mind has greater potential than ordinary psychologists state — do with concrete, physical manifestations of possible alien "intelligencies"? Is it not about time that we skipped all this blather and got to work to record what we can of these PMs and then do a little conceptual speculation as to just what their cause could be — even unto invisible entities?

ON WEDDING RINGS

In speaking of ITF in our last issue we mentioned, and perhaps rather too facetiously, that a member has for long collected oddities and enigmas connected with wedding rings. Now, we receive a letter from another member, Mrs. Dulcie Brown (20), of Fresno, California: This reads in part: —

"To begin with my wedding ring was silver, a pretty little band with engraving. I wore it so long that all the engraving wore off and it was just a plain silver band. Then, it began catching on things and, fearing that my finger might be injured, I took it off and laid it on a sideboard in our Los Angeles home. This was in about 1955.

"The wedding ring disappeared. I could not find it anywhere. When we moved from Los Angeles everything was carefully gone over in house and garage, many things disposed of. We were very careful to include just the things we wanted to keep to take with us. But no wedding ring showed up.

"Since moving to Fresno we moved twice and the same thing was done, everything gone over and the dispensable things done away with. No wedding ring. I had forgotten about it.

"In 1966 my husband died. This time I really got rid of things! In the garage was a certain box. It had originally been a cigar box, one of those nice little wooden deals with a clasp. When I was going with my husband back in 1932 I had decorated this box and shellacked it and he had kept it because it was the first thing I had done for him. Now, I took some small articles like nails, screws, little things like that I thought I might need and put in that box selecting them carefully one by one.

"Since then I've moved twice. I have opened that box a number of times to take out nails etc.

"About a week ago a young lady came in and asked me for a nail. I opened the little box and on top of everything WAS MY WEDDING RING."

Sudden disappearances and appearances of material objects and notably artefacts, is a most troublesome matter. In the first place, the phenomenon has until now been almost universally attributed to some form of self-hypnosis on the part of mystics, occultists, spiritualists, and such other cultists. When other equally rational souls claimed such goings-on, simple logic was called upon:

namely, that the items had been overlooked or had fallen into a hole; or that a cat or dog had carried them off, or brought them in; or that mice or rats were the culprits, the latter, and quite apart from the Pack Rats, being great collectors. But such spontaneous appearances have been witnessed now for several decades and under controlled conditions though, unfortunately, in the first instance, by Dr. Harry Price at the famous Borley Rectory. We say unfortunately because Dr. Price was a leading light in the British Society for Psychical Research, and the very mention of the psychic sends the average citizen as well as scientist and technologist literally screaming for the proverbial uplands.

However, there is no longer any doubt that inanimate objects, other than artefacts, "appear" — either lobbed or just dropped in, as with the endless cases of stones — since the process has been witnessed by tens of thousands of people in broad daylight and with such professional sceptics as police officers and cameramen present. While the procedure and process may be the same from a physical point of view, there is nonetheless a difference between the artefacts and the non-artefacts in that the former appear to be more purposive. The ultimate of the latter would seem to be this business of wedding rings.

These reports of materializations and dematerializations constitute a natural phenomenon closely parallel to that of UFOs, in that we have nothing concrete by way of explanation and are still in the collecting stage. There is nothing but reports and a few photographs, and the latter all taken after the event, so that the objects depicted could quite well be nothing but "plants". We do have the objects themselves, of course, but then we also have almost as many things, both artefacts and non-artefacts, that have fallen from the sky in the presence of more than enough reliable witnesses. Question is: what are these objects concrete evidence of ?

IV — ASTRONOMY

DUSTY OLD MARS

Really! Things seem to be getting a little bit out of hand. It is stated that we (the U.S.A.) accomplished a fly-by of the planet Mars, passing at a distance of about 10,000 miles from its surface. The craft, named Mariner 4 allegedly took 22 photographs of the planet's surface on the 15th July, 1965. It is now stated that these have been "thoroughly analyzed". Hurrah; or hurray! (However, said analysis was released in Canada in May of this year (1968).) It was a most incredible hodge-podge of non sequiturs and plain rubbish.

We must, of course, beware of the more than possible divarications of the press in reporting this matter and also suspect the usual wholesale dumping of the essential qualifying words, as explained in our editorial; but even then, and allowing for such discrepancies, we are still left with some incredible drivel. The report states that Drs. Clark Chapman, James Pollack and no less than Carl Sagan have "done an intensive study of the craters visible on the limited area of the surface" (cov- by the photos, we presume). It then goes on to state that these scientists catalogued nearly 300 (of these) and classified them on the basis of appearance and erosion of their walls. So far, so good; but then it was added that "These are considered to be impact craters. They range in size from 135 miles down to ten miles" — (in diameter, one presumes). This also is fair enough; but then the whole thing goes wild; and we quote: —

"From this study the investigators reach some interesting conclusions about the Martian landscape. They compute that the dust produced by impact of asteroids or meteorites during the history of Mars will have a depth of half a mile up to a mile or two. Erosion and dust have certainly obliterated much of the landscape from ages back. The largest craters have been able to survive, and have an estimated age of about 2,250 million years. Craters less than 12 miles in diameter are only some tens of millions of years old. Small craters may have been very prominent in the early history of the planet, but cannot now be traced on the Mariner photographs. Chapman and his associates emphasize that this means that if there were river valleys in earlier epochs on Mars, these too would now be obliterated (unless they were of greater extent than similar features on earth). The dust that has been produced would be sufficient to fill them. They point out also that from the barren appearance of Mars today, we cannot draw unfavorable conclusions about the possibility of life on primitive Mars."

So dust crops up again, and from "half a mile (deep) up to a mile or two". Do you remember the pontifications of the great experts for the edification of other great experts on the subject of the surface of the Moon some years back? Dust it was, but to "dust" it now returneth. (There were even some clowns who stated that our companion planet's surface was covered by a 400-ft. tall forest of vegetation!) When we got some close-up pixs of the Moon's surface, of course, no dust at all.

So "erosion" gets in the act too. Erosion of what by what forces? In the absence of an atmosphere, this would presumably be by what is called 'creep' of solid particles down inclines due to expansion and contraction caused by heating and cooling; said heat presumably coming from the sun. Well, in a couple of billion years we must presume that a four-mile-high mountain ridge due to a collision with a planetoid could be so 'eroded', but what of the dust? Where is the dust from impacts on the Moon and on our planet? And don't think that we have not had plenty of such collisions; take a look at the new maps. Indeed, "small craters" may have been very prominent "in the early history" of Mars, and doubtless they could not now be traced any more than similar craters can be on this earth from our local fly-arounds. (Actually, there are over a thousand beauties in the State of Guanajuato in Mexico that anybody can see even from the ground, and some there are not more than a couple of hundred feet in diameter.) But then comes the real stuff.

"River Valleys" yet! Who said so? Are we asked to believe that it is the consensus of current scientific opinion that Mars was once a sort of fertile planet like ours, having an atmosphere, water precipitation causing massive erosion, and the resultant gouging of river-systems? And why would these be greater than on our earth? After all, Mars is considerably smaller and farther away from the Sun. And then comes this bloody dust again. (One thinks of Nearchus' Egyptian canal now filled with the sands of the Nile — which, of course, it isn't.) But, the last sentence is really the pay-off; and we repeat: "We cannot draw unfavourable conclusions about the possibility of life on primitive Mars". Just exactly what does this mean?

This must be a misquote. If not, it seems to say that: "We cannot state categorically that life on the planet Mars at an earlier age must be ruled out altogether". Then why in the devil don't they say so?

V - GEOLOGY

LIVING ICECAPS

Here is a real beauty. We start off with the funny part. In a paper entitled "Stability of Ice-Age Ice Sheets" by one J. Weertman, then of the Materials Science Department of the Technological Institute, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, published in Volume 66, No. 11, of The Journal of Geophysical Research, of November, 1961, appears the classic statement: —

"We make the observation that an ice cap will grow when the snowfall on it increases or the melting at its edge decreases and that it will shrink when the snowfall decreases or the melting increases. This fact has been noted many times before."

We find this absolutely delightful and for several reasons. First, the facts as stated become apparent to any young person of about nine years of age even before it has been explained to him/ what an Icecap, as opposed to an Icraft, a Glacier, and/or an Iceberg is. Second, the statement above appeared in good old Lake & Rastall, first published in 1927, but with an introductory observation that it "is obvious". Third, it's not strictly true!

An icecap is a funny thing itself. Indeed, it comes into being in the first place due to the accumulation of snow that does not melt throughout the year and thus is compressed first to what is called firn, then to ice, and finally to palaeocrystic ice, which reflects peacock blue and contains no air. As the mass piles up, it begins to creep — actually slide, molecule-layer over molecule-layer, one upon the other, outwards in all directions; and it continues to do so until its periphery gets to a point where melting exceeds the down-coming ice. But it's not so simple as that. Cold air falls and hot air rises; thus, the air above an icecap being chilled cannot go up and so slithers outwards in all directions, letting warmer air down from above, which then in turn gets chilled and also moves downward and outward in all directions. This produces what are called adiabatic winds that may reach near-hurricane force but, of course, without the spiral twist. As a result, the chilling of the periphery of the icesheet or -cap is pushed far beyond Mr. Weertman's line of simple melting or ablation. What is more, where the periphery of an icecap confronts warm, warmer (than the adiabatic), or hot winds it tends to grow even faster, for the simple reason that enhanced precipitation results, which immediately freezes and adds to the surface layer of snow, firn, and ultimately ice. Only where ice-edge and its winds meet colder air does the thing come to a stop and even start retreating due to evaporation. Take a look at the northern tip of Greenland which is unglaciated and on which bees, flowers, and a host of small animals live all year round.

We were much intrigued to see that Mr. Weertman published his article under the auspices of the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory of the Corps of Engineers, Hanover, New Hampshire; and further that he "appreciate(d) the critical comments of Prof. H. Bader, Prof.

F. Sharp, and Dr. J. F. Nye on an earlier version of this paper". And another thing that intrigues us is just why NASA and the Services are so bloody interested in icecaps, and notably in connection with the planet Venus (see later reports)? Has Charles Hapgood (55) with his EARTH'S SHIFTING CRUST finally got through to them? Don't forget that, if our present icecaps melted off altogether, every capital and port city in the world, bar a few in Asia and Central and South America, would be 400-feet under water. Fine for the liquidation of New York and Moscow, but somewhat convenient for Pekin!

THE FLORIDA UNDERGROUND

Frank Shields (155) does it again. Over the years Frank has come up with so many and so varied a procession of oddities and enigmas that he will have to be disbarred from the competition we are considering for the ten best new fortaen items of next year and be given his solid gold hippie neck-lace of our little dog "Pursuit" this Christmas. Now he writes as follows: -

"Yesterday we met three young ex navy men at a neighbor's house. One is with the Barge Canal Authority under the Army Engineers Corps that is building the Cross-Florida Barge Canal from the St. Johns River on the east coast to the Gulf Coast. We chatted about it in detail for hours but one point he brought up might come within the frame of your interests or someone in the Society's membership.

"He said that in seeking for solid footings for some of the many bridges they built across the canal they drilled down through the old reef limestone and often came to a point where they suddenly hit nothing at all because of the vast network of huge underground rivers and caverns under much of Florida. They had to alter planned positions and the forms of bridges because of this. That there are such underground rivers here is not news to you I am sure but I have been hearing of this phenomenon constantly, and it has struck me forcibly that this underground world of rivers and caverns is an enormous one and that while they are gradually charting it here in Florida, it is almost totally unknown in any significant reality. That unknown life forms probably have evolved in it seems pretty certain, since in lesser situations in caves and underground rivers strange life forms specialized to this environment have been found. The scale of this underground river system in Florida suggests, however, that one might find much more in the way of specialized and unknown life forms in this situation if any technique for searching for it could be devised and pursued. It is a new dimension of challenge it seems to me, and one that I have not read or heard much said about. It has a fascinating potential and opens a door to a new kind of discovery field. There must be many vast underground systems around the world such as Florida's that have received no real attention to date."

And this indeed brings up a most troublesome matter that has been sort of left lying around for many years: to wit, subterranean river systems. The key to this business is, however, a zoological one.

Caves have an aquatic fauna that is not found on the surface of the land. This is not to say that there are not many surface-living forms that go down into caves and even have distinct races that are confined to the underground, but these are not the special fauna of which we speak. This fauna consists of protozoa, possibly a sponge, some rotifers, hydrozoans, several types of three of the phyla called collectively "worms", several crustaceans, a number of fish, and a few most odd forms of tailed amphibians. These are all either without or having greatly atrophied organs of vision, and most lack skin or shell pigment, so appearing semi-transparent, white, or pale pink. It is the salamanders that constitute the most pertinent factor in this remarkable business.

In 1892, the famous Dr. Leonhard Stejneger of the Smithsonian described an entirely new form of such a salamander caught in Rock House Cave in Missouri, to which he gave the name Typhlotriton spelaeus. Other forms, not necessarily related genetically but also blind came up out of an artesian well (188-ft deep) in Hays County, Texas, in 1896, and another from a 200-ft well in Dougherty County, Georgia, in 1939. Other species are known from limestone caves in Eurasia, Africa, and South America. But it is the original Typhlotriton that forced upon us the rather startling fact that there is a whole underground country beneath the Ozarks and spreading into Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas because the same species kept being pumped up from the depths all over this huge area. Since this animal does not, even if it could, come to the surface, it must have spread underground from wherever it originated. The same goes for the other salamanders, and the fish, and all the other indigenous cave animals. What is more, when the distribution of these animals came to be mapped after half a century of collecting, a most startling picture emerged.

Not only did some species have an enormous distribution, but they went down to great depths

(in one case nearly half a mile down) and came from below all sorts of strata in which caves do not develop. This would seem to indicate that they were distributed throughout limestone strata; but a curious further fact then emerged, namely, that they did not all spread everywhere where conditions must be identical, but were confined to particular ranges just like surface animals. More specimens and a more detailed analysis of their mapped distribution, by species and by associations, then showed that the subterranean waters that they inhabit are not just a haphazard network of channels but form fern-leaf patterns exactly similar to surface drainage patterns. What is more, these underground river-systems, complete with consequent, subsequent, and insequent streams, often lie over (and/or under) each other without intermingling, and never in any way following the surface drainage systems. In fact, one great system runs right across the Mississippi, but underneath.

This can mean but one thing; namely, that there is a whole world of life going on below us; and this brings us to the truly forteen aspect of this matter. The question is not how extensive are these waterways, but how large are they? A six-inch salamander can get through an incredibly small channel, and so far we have not brought up anything larger from real depth. However, while we know that there are monstrous creatures in the deep seas and possibly the oceans — because specially made shark hooks have been straightened out or just chopped in two (see Heuvelmans' new book) — we have not caught one yet, and a very pertinent observation on this was made a few years ago. This was simply that we haven't caught really big things yet because we haven't got big enough hooks or other gear. In the case of the cave animals, the problem is reversed in that we might not have big enough holes for them to come up through. And this brings us to a singularly unpleasant consideration: Just what are the so-called "Cave Cows" of the Mayas of Yucatan? But this is something that must wait for another time, and more especially because our S.I.T.U. members who are currently investigating the matter on the spot have not yet reported.

VI — BIOLOGY

FISHING — UNEXPLAINED

We've always thought there was something a bit fishy about fishing. Millions of people have for millenia fished to live; millions more have fished for fun. They've caught everything from 110-ft Blue Whales to the smallest vertebrated animal — a Goby found in some lakes in the Philippines, about the size of a House-Fly, named Pandaka pygmaea. This last was contributed by still a third class of fishermen, namely scientific collectors. All three types have told 'fishing stories' since time immemorial and mostly about the one that got away, though the onus of proving their statements has descended more heavily upon the first and the last types. Commercial tarpon fishers have to deliver fish of the exact length that they say they have caught; scientific collectors have to bring theirs back pickled in alcohol or formaldehyde. The fun fishers can, however, say anything they like — and they do. And, the traditional places for so saying are bars and grills. But, look out!

We have here a photograph of a gentleman endearingly known as "Pappy" Schaible, of Frenchtown, New Jersey, from a column entitled "Godown's Believe it or not Photos" which is a regular feature in THE DELAWARE VALLEY NEWS. Please understand that we aim to be not only national but international, but there are more things in New Jersey than in the proverbial "Heaven and Earth": Be that as it may (cliche), the caption to this photo read simply: "Frenchtown's best Catfish Catcher: Pappy Schaible, knew by pure intuition that they were biting on Tuesday and off he went, rowing like a man possessed to his favorite spot. (Photo of chap rowing like mad, alongside.) He's shown below with one of the fish he was able to lift out of the boat." One has to admit that this is quite a bit of catfish and, manifestly, it did not get away. But what intrigued us was the pert statement that it was one of the fish that he was able to lift out of his boat. So we started asking discreet questions around this area where we happen to be situate. The results have been very odd indeed. Nobody is willing to state that they have ever seen any fish, let alone a Catfish, of this size in the Delaware River, despite the fact that they were born and brought up in the valley. The local Fish & Wildlife Service haws to the extent of hemming on the subject while not, of course, committing itself. How could they? Reason: behaviour like Pappy's is definitely unexplained. And so also is a very great deal else about simple "fishing".

Let us not attempt to go into all the usual jazz about never getting a bite in a stocked trout lake while your twelve-year-old daughter hauls in half a dozen monsters, on the hour, at the other end of your boat. There are doubtless good, valid, and logical reasons for such behaviour — even if they are true — but what of this everlasting business of some people going out where everybody else

goes and bringing up all kinds of things that nobody else does? Example: — In June, 1965, two young people — Pamela Bird, 21, and Henry Englehart, 15, both of Budd Lake, New Jersey, ran over a 30-inch shark — described as a "Blue Sand Shark" — with their outboard on said lake. This is some 60 miles inland from the Atlantic coast and all sharks and their relatives the dogfish hereabouts are marine, saltwater animals and simply cannot live in freshwater for more than a very short period. We have clear photos of this fish and there is no doubt about it but that it is indeed a selachian — either a baby shark or a dogfish. So how did it get there? As a matter of fact, the local game warden and the local press applied to us and we went to investigate the matter. There was no reason to suppose that said fish was not caught in that lake. So, as it could not have lived there, it must have been thrown in by somebody and very shortly before Pamela and Henry ran over it. The lake is right alongside the infamous old Route 46, the most direct truck route from New York to the rest of the United States, and refrigerator trucks roll along it all day and night, seven days a week. Also, some of these deliver fresh sea foods from the docks and markets in New York to restaurants all the way up the line over the mountains and on to the great plains. So some joker threw a live dogfish into Budd Lake, en passant, and it just so happened that the young people came roaring by before it had time to gasp its last and sink. Big deal! So how did it survive from New York? On ice? Oh, please go ask an ichthyologist. But this is a frowsy little thing as good old Charlie Fort would say. And this brings us neatly to said master, and we quote from page 597, of the collected works of Fort (Henry Holt and Company, 1941): —

"In Science, Dec. 12, 1902, Dr. John M. Clarke writes that a strange-looking fish had been caught in Lake Onondaga, Western New York, and had been taken to Syracuse. Here it was identified as a squid. Then a second specimen was caught.

"Whatever thoughts we're trying to develop did not belong away back in the Dark Age, or the other Dark Age, of the year 1902. Just where they do belong has not been decided yet. Said Dr. Clarke, with whatever reasoning abilities people had in the year 1902: "There are salt springs near Lake Onondaga: so perhaps there is, in the lake, a sub-stratum of salt water." The idea is that, for millions of years, there had been, in Lake Onondaga, ocean life down below, and fresh water things swimming around, overhead, and never mixing. Perhaps, by way of experiment, Dr. Clarke put salt water and a herring in an aquarium, and then fresh water and a goldfish on top, and saw each fish keeping strictly to his own floor, which is the only way to get along as neighbors.

"Another scientist turned on his reasoning abilities. Prof. Ortman, of Princeton University, examined one of the specimens, which, according to him, was "a short-finned squid, of the North Atlantic, about 13 inches long." Prof. Ortman reasoned that Atlantic fishermen use squid for bait. Very well: then other fishermen may use squid for bait. So somebody may have sent for squid, to go fishing in Lake Onondaga, and may have lost a couple of live ones.

"This is the science that is opposing our own notions. But for all I know, it may be pretty good science. An existence that would produce such explainers, might very well produce such fishermen. So perhaps fishermen of Lake Onondaga, with millions of worms around, send several hundred miles for squid, for bait, and perhaps Atlantic fishermen, with millions of squid available, send all the way to Lake Onondaga for worms. I've done foolisher, myself.

"It seems to me that there is something suggestive in the presence of large deposits of salt near this lake, but I have heard nothing of salt water in it. There's no telling about a story that was published, in the New York Times, May 2, 1882, but if it could be accepted, here would be something worth thinking about — that a seal had been shot, in Lake Onondaga. Some years before the appearance of the squid, another sea creature, a sargassum fish, had been caught in Lake Onondaga. It had been exhibited in Syracuse, according to Prof. Hargitt, of Syracuse University (Science, n.s., 17-114). It has to be thought that these things were strays. If they were indigenous and propagated, they'd be common."

Funny business this "fishing"; seems you never know what you are going to catch. And we have for long wondered just what fun-fishermen have caught that looked so horrid that they just threw it back in. And the commercial boys with their "trash fish"; and the menhaden pros. What if they catch a salmon in their trawl?... Who wants a salmon? ... O—U—F — OUT. We were once on a professional collecting trawler in the British Channel that supplied scientific specimens to the Plymouth Biological Laboratory, and what should come up in an ordinary trawl but a 12-foot Angler Fish that bit a half-inch galvanized iron pipe-handle in half as if it were a straw. Nobody had ever seen such a fish longer than four feet before, and this was only ten miles off a coast that has been fished for two thousand years. Beware; there's something awfully fishy about fishing.

SEA-COWS AND WATER-HORSES

A new light has dawned upon the Lake-(and possibly the Sea-) Monster scene. But, as usual, like all novel ideas it has set off not just a train but a whole skein of subsidiary questions. This has been kicked off by Prof. Roy P. Mackal of the University of Chicago in a paper describing his 1967 investigation of the famous Loch Ness monsters. From this on-the-spot enquiry, he deduced the pertinent fact that these animals are mammals, by employing the old police method of a composite drawing made from all the eyewitness accounts he could gather.

This may not at first sound particularly spectacular as almost everybody has for many years now assumed that said creatures are mammals; at least since the British contingent got over their idée fixe that they were related to the reptilian group that included the plesiosaurs as known from fossils. The only alternatives - suggested, of course, by those people and groups who have taken this matter seriously - have been giant serpentine fishes like eels; just possibly some enormous amphibian (the opinion notably of Cmdr. Rupert T. Gould); or some gargantuan invertebrate, either a mollusc like a slug, a "worm" of one of the sixteen phyla of vermiform aquatic animals, or, as in the belief of one Mr. Ted Holliday, a descendant of the as yet unclassified Tullimonsters, known from fossils found near Chicago. (This last is, in our opinion, a form of Chaetognath, a small phylum of marine animals known today as the "Arrow Worms".) But there are two most interesting aspects to Prof. Mackal's new suggestion.

The first is that he previously tended to favour the invertebrate hypothesis. The second is the type of mammal he now postulates. This is a long-necked form of Sirenian, meaning a mammal of the group that contains today only the Dugong of the Indian Ocean and the Manatees of Africa, South, Central and southeastern North America. This is a new one that nobody had thought of before for freshwater monsters but on analysis it makes a lot of sense. And, in view of certain facts that may or may not have been known to Prof. Mackal when he developed his theory, has sent us off on still another tack in these troubled waters. But first to the Sirenians.

Today, these form a minute Order of aquatic mammals having rotund, barrel-shaped and spindle-formed bodies, hardly any necks at all, a single pair of flippers to the front, which are nonetheless articulated like arms, and a tail with horizontal fleshy flukes. There are two kinds: the Dugong of northern Australia and the Indian Ocean coasts which has a "tail" shaped like a fish or whale, and the Manatees in which the hind extremity is shaped like a circular paddle without central median notch. These are both tropical or subtropical animals. However, there was until comparatively recently a third type known as Steller's Sea-Cow (Hydrodamalis (Rhytina) stelleri) that lived along the shores of some sub-arctic islands in the North Pacific. The Sirenians appear to have diverged in very early mammalian times from a common stock that gave rise also to the proboscideans and perhaps some true ungulates, and even the hippopotamuses and the little rabbit-shaped hyraxes.

This third sirenian was discovered by the great German naturalist, Georg Wilhelm Steller, on an island off the coast of Kamchatka in 1741. It was unknown even to the Russians of the nearby mainland. It was an enormous, docile beast with a warty, coreaceous hide of great thickness, a slight neck, the standard two front paddles and a large fish-shaped tail but of course carried horizontally. It lolled about in the kelp beds, browsing, and was quite unfearful of man. It was found on only a few islands and was, needless to say, exterminated thereabouts by 1768. It was a left-over and it is of particular interest from a biological point of view in that it was indigenous to very cold northern waters, showing that the sirenians are not just a tropical form. (Fossil sirenians have, as a matter of fact, been found at all latitudes.) What Prof. Mackal now suggests is that the freshwater monsters inhabiting such lakes as the Ness and all the others in Scotland, Ireland, Iceland, Scandinavia, northern Russia, Siberia, Canada, and some parts of northern U.S.; and possibly even those reported from Tasmania, New Zealand, and the Argentine in the southern hemisphere, could be very large and long-necked Sirenians. Why? Mostly because his artist's composite picture came out just like that!

There is a large lake in Canada on the border of the U.S., named Okanagan, in which literally tens of thousands of people say they have seen very large unknown animals. Unfortunately these animals have been given the stupid name of "Ogopogos". Actually, the local Amerinds originally called them "N'ha-a-itk" but that of course is too much for white men. Despite the usual ridicule, quite a number of serious-minded attempts have been made over the years to track down these creatures and with one most incredible - and concrete - result: to wit; a corpse that appeared to be that of some kind of sirenian, though any such animal was completely unknown to the locals. The account of this came to us in a letter from a resident of Summerland, at the southern end of the lake, who reported: -

"In the early days of white settlement an animal form was discovered above the shoreline by the Indians, who described the dead creature as having whiskers and, if I recall, a blue muzzle, also flippers. For many years the skeleton remained on the shore until finally a settlers road was put through, the skeleton was broken up and dispersed. From the description the Summerland man related it to the manatee of warmer waters. He added to this that one of the rock paintings or etchings on the few cliffs of Okanagan Lake depicts an animal form standing up in the water and suckling its young with the aid of a flipper — said to be a characteristic of the manatee and of no other known form. (This information was obtained from Mr. H. H. Currie, of Nelson, B.C., a life-long newspaperman.)"

Here, we feel, we have a link in a tenuous chain. A few relic sirenians in the Caribbean area; a recently extinct sirenian in the near-icy waters off the eastern end of Siberia, and a sirenian-like corpse in a western Canadian lake — and with whiskers, yet. So what is so all-fired crazy in suggesting that other sirenians may not have got trapped in other sub-arctic and northern, temperate, deep-water lakes? And why should not some of them have developed rather long necks? Let's turn a metaphorical page.

SOMEBODY'S SEA-COW

In October of 1966, AP broadcast a very brief release that went as follows: — "MOSCOW, Oct. 16 — Soviet scientists said today Sea-Cows weighing more than three tons may be wallowing in the waters around the Siberian peninsula of Kamschatka. The news agency TASS said some fishermen claim to have seen such sea mammals." (ends). As usual no pertinent details or even relevant facts. What scientists? Names please. What fishermen? Names, dates, and location, please. Who weighed one? Who estimated any one at over three tons? Which tons- American, European, or 'Long'? "May be wallowing"? Were they: and if so, who said so, and why? Finally: "around the Siberian peninsula of Kamschatka". Which side? East or west? Oh yes: and how did these fishermen know that they were mammals? Most unsatisfactory — as usual. Nonetheless

A somewhat better notice came from a truly Russian source about a month later. This was printed in Priroda (Nature) published by the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., by three well-known zoologists, and went as follows.

"Detailed observations were made by the crew of the whaler Buran near Cape Navarin to the south of the Gulf of Anadyr in July 1962. Very early one morning the ship was near the coast when half a dozen unusual-looking animals were seen 80 to 100 yards away. Next morning similar animals were seen again in the same area, where there was a sort of shallow-water lagoon into which a river ran. Sea-kale and seaweed flourished there, and in the winter it was never frozen over except for a narrow strip near the shore.

"The witnesses, most of them seasoned hunters and whalers, all agreed that the animals were unlike any known cetacean or pinniped. They were from 20 to 26 feet long, varying no doubt according to age. Their skin was very dark, with a small head clearly separated from the body. The upper lip was divided in a hare-lip and overlapped the lower one (this could in fact have been due to thick moustaches). The tail was remarkable in being edged with a fringe. The beasts swam slowly, occasionally dived for short periods and then rose above water in a very marked way. They formed a compact group, all swimming together in the same direction."

But then to really muddle the issue, a quite different report appeared in France, in NOUVELLE REPUBLIQUE of the 8th Nov. which went as follows: —

LA BALEINE RUSSE AVAIT DES OREILLES.

"Un savant sovietique vient de decouvrir sur une baleine pechee dans les eaux de l'Extreme-Orient sovietique, des elements d'oreilles.

"Selon la "Komsomolskaya Pravda", le biologiste a deceler sur l'animal, des elements de pavillon auriculaire, et cette decouverte serait la preuve qu'il y a des millions d'annees, les ancetres des baleines vivaient sur la terre ferme.

"Le journal, rappelle, a l'appui de cette these, qu'il y a quatre ans, deux autres savants sovietiques firent sensation en decouvrant un cachalot muni de jambes."

So just what is this one? Has it anything to do with the alleged rediscovery of Steller's Sea-Cow, or is it something quite different? Let us try to make some sense out of it.

So somebody said he found a beached whale with external ear "pinnae". Further, other Soviet scientists have been said to have been galvanized by the discovery of a "cachalot", which means a Sperm Whale or (let's give them this) at least an Odontocete, or Toothed Whale, with (literally) legs. Does this mean articulated fore-limbs or a pair of hind limbs as well? If this "whale" is a Sea-Cow, how come it has external ears, since Steller's Sea-Cow had no signs of any such things. Further, were its (only) fore limbs articulated externally like the Manatee, or more so? This is all most unsatisfactory.

If there are some Steller's Sea-Cows still "wallowing about" we would like to hear more, and we would hope that the Russians are doing something about the matter. If, on the other hand, there are still some Archaeoceti or ultra-primitive whales meandering around with external ear pinnae and hind legs, we feel that we ought, all together, to be trying to do something about this also.

AN OOLOGICAL ODDITY

A delightful little snippet came to us recently, datelined Worcester Park, England - (UPI) - which reads in toto as follows: - "Agriculture Ministry experts have been watching 12 of Edward McKenner's chickens for several weeks since they began laying blue, green, and pink eggs." As usual no supplementary information such as what breed of chicken, did they lay other coloured eggs before, how long had Mr. McKenner had them, where did they come from, and above all, did each hen pick a particular color or did some or all of them vary the procedure psychedelically. Even if such pertinent details are either unknown or not on record, the British Agriculture Ministry should go collectively back to school or read a couple of books even unto that patchwork monstrosity called the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

"Easter-Egg Chickens", otherwise known as Araucarian Fowl, have been known for over four hundred years. They come from Chile and are indeed strange and wondrous creatures but not solely because of their outrageously coloured eggs. No indeed, they are truly forteen birds and for several reasons. First, chickens are not supposed to have been indigenous to the Americas but all to have been derived from crossings between two or three Jungle Fowl of the Oriental Region. People have done some pretty outrageous things to chickens as they filtered outwards all over the world - vide the Japanese breed with twelve-foot tails - but these Araucarians, though decorous in appearance, were mentioned as laying Easter-eggs in the very earliest reports from the first Spanish explorers who moved south from Peru and even by seafarers coming from the Pacific.

As to transmission of food products across the Pacific, the Heyerdahl party plumps for east to west but everybody else yells for west to east. Doubtless both occurred but the fact remains that in shouting down Heyerdahl the other party has fallen into the age-old trap; to wit, not just admitting but affirming their opponent's major premise; in this case that there was just such transmission across that ocean. If early Japanese pottery did land up on the west coast of South America, why not chickens? The chicken is a rugged bird and a very good seaman, as we can attest since we carried a bunch of them aboard our schooner for years. (None ever went overboard even when it got off its string; they all developed good "sea-legs"; more than one cock greeted the dawn from the masthead; and only once did one get clobbered. This was by a large flying fish that came aboard and bit an inquisitive pullet's beak off.) But back to the matter of Easter eggs.

We owned some of these dull fowl at HQ some years ago with a view to displaying their proclivities on the first color TV program. (One did us the courtesy of laying a bright blue egg on camera but this did not prove our point, though its color was startling enough, because it only laid one egg.) What we discovered was that, not only did the same bird suddenly change egg colour on a long-term basis, but that the same bird could pop out eggs of various different colors, and in no apparent sequence! This really calls for some hard thinking and sorely taxes the physiologists. The only explanation of egg-coloring anyhow is trace minerals ingested by them and then sorted out by species. Some birds lay eggs with two or more background colors, varicolored markings, and variable such markings; but each to her own, individually. Switching from rose pink to sky blue, then to green, to dark brown, to white, is quite another matter. Also, almost as strange is that a bunch of these chickens, locked up together and having exactly the same diet, should produce different coloured eggs. Still stranger is that the egg colour does not seem to be genetically laid down since a whole lot may be laying eggs of one colour and then suddenly go wild for colour. We sure would like to know if Mr. McKenner's chickens were Araucarians because the notion of dear old Rhode Island Reds or Leghorns suddenly going gay in this respect would really give us something to think about.

AN OOLOGICAL OUTRAGE

This is not exactly current news but we have been itching to expose it for twenty years and this would seem to be an appropriate juncture to do so. Also, we have gathered over these years a few other somewhat similar cases, and all, it might at first seem strange, from biologists. The reason for this could well be that, to anybody without any understanding of anatomy, the business might seem nothing more than odd. To anybody from junior high on up who has been interested in knowing how birds are put together, the thing is not just unexplained but frankly incomprehensible. It is, simply stated, outrageous things in eggs.

For us it all began when we ordered lightly boiled eggs on a New Haven and Hartford train from New York to Wood's Hole, Mass., on our way to Nantucket Island. On opening the first egg we perceived a revolting, dark greenish something exuding from the yolk up into the white. The egg not being rotten or stinking, and this horror manifestly not being an embryo (which is pink and grows on the surface of the yolk) we dived at it with a spoon and extracted a nauseous small disc clotted with a bright green excrescence. Poking this around, we hit bright metal and, transferring it to a saucer with some water, and scraping it around, we brought to light a dime clearly dated 1948. More than a little disturbed, we called the waiter and the steward to witness the egg, the dime, and the rest. As there was no bar on the train from which we might have obtained some spiritous liquor in which to 'fix' the egg, we carefully placed it in a cup, padded with tissues and, reinserting the dime, tottered back to our drawing room. On passing through Providence however, the engineer apparently had cause to slam on his brakes at neck-cracking instance, and the precious cup, egg, dime and all flew across the room and shattered. We retrieved the dime which displayed the profile of one of our better known presidents.

So we found a dime in an egg: so what? The average person would say something like "So the chicken swallowed a dime". True, most birds peck at, pick up, and often swallow any bright object as they need sharp-edge grit for their crops; but if a bird, or even you, swallow anything it is not going to get out of your alimentary tract into your reproductive one. The two are completely separated, and by two walls and the intervening peritoneum at that. Eggs are formed in the reproductive system and then go outward and downward, and while there is a sort of funnel into the peritoneum, it is minute and definitely not suited for the ingestion of even a dime. Further, how does said dime get out of the alimentary tract which is completely sealed throughout its length from mouth to anus? Perforation of the small intestine? So then the dime wanders around in the peritoneum and somehow forces its way into the Malpighian tubes and gets into the reproductive system. Baloney!

OK, so four of us were hallucinated, or some such rubbish, and only "thought" we found a dime in a hen's egg. So what about Mrs. Hamilton Bryan of Alexandria, Virginia, who sliced a ripe cantaloupe back in April, 1965 and found a somewhat sodden but new \$10 bill in it? (The bill was mushed up into a tight ball.) Take also Mrs. Lucille Quayle of Custer Park, Illinois. On slicing a ripe tomato she found a neatly folded one dollar bill in same. But, to be deadly serious, not all these reported cases of things being found where they should not logically be can be fakes or frauds. Is this just another case or aspect of ITF - see our last issue - and if so, is there any specific cause for money to be transferred into "fruits"?

MORE ON OOF'S

This might be considered to be stretching a point but as it comes from none less than the New York TIMES, and from the pen of none less than Walter Sullivan, we should at least treat it with respect! The headline ran: - "EXPERIMENTERS PRODUCE FROG FROM A SINGLE CELL", and is datelined Oxford, England. So far, so good; but Mr. Sullivan goes on to tell us that said frog was raised from a single cell taken out of the lining of a "parent frog's " intestinal lining. Now: caution here. This brings us squarely to a confrontation with just what the geneticists do say. The complete plan for a new individual animal is said to be carried in the DNA molecules within the genes of the chromosomes of the specialized cells that carry the sexual reproductive imprint. Fair enough; but are we now asked to understand that said imprint can be carried by aberrant or wandering 'rogue' cells that may lodge anywhere in the body of a growing animal (or plant), or are we asked to conceive of the idea that all cells in any one animate entity carry the plan or pattern? The really fascinating outcome of this investigation by Dr. John Gurden and his associates is that they transferred a nucleus of an alimentary tract cell to a reproductive cell (an ovum) from which the nucleus had been removed. Apparently - to over-simplify - said transplanted nucleus got instructions to stop digesting stuff and get to work reproducing things. Something must give these instructions. It is as yet unexplained.

MORE MOA MURMURS

A member, recently returned from a visit to New Zealand but who wishes to remain anonymous for the present as he is a professional zoologist and made the trip under official auspices and does not want to be accused of making irresponsible statements, brought us a very interesting report on the century-old mystery of the Moas. It is exactly ten years since we last received anything so encouraging on this subject. The story goes as follows.

During the course of conversation with another professional zoologist, employed in the Wildlife Division of the N.Z. government and who also wishes to remain anonymous for similar reasons — and we can't blame either of these gentlemen — it transpired that apparently fresh remains of a small species of Moa were found early this year in the montane forests of the fjordlands of southern South Island. This is the area in which the large flightless bird, a form of rail called the Takahe (Notornis), thought to have been extinct, turned up very much alive just after WW.II. Like previous discoveries of such moa remains, these new ones were found in a dry cave; but this time, the bones, and more so the feathers, are said to have shown every sign of being contemporary. Most aggravatingly, our correspondent has been unable to ascertain whether any of these remains have been submitted for radiocarbon dating; a point that, in our opinion, casts some suspicion on the business. Said specimens are alleged to have been lodged in a large museum but we still await replies to our enquiries about this. Admittedly, we may have the wrong museum as there has been the most extraordinary cloak-and-daggerism running through all this story for the past twenty years. This is perhaps understandable because the man who first said he had seen a Takahe was not only ridiculed but clobbered; nor was he well treated even when his report was proved to be true by the capture of a bird.

The reason we take this matter seriously, despite these evasions and shenanigans, is just this past history of the business. There was a time when nobody believed that any humans had been contemporary with living moas but a chance discovery by a young student of a certain Dillon's Point primary school, named Jim Eyles, in 1939 laid this ghost for good. Later, it became manifest that some species of moas had existed until very shortly before the first white men arrived and may have continued to do so until as late as the nineteenth century. The next phase was initiated by this re-discovery of the Takahe or Notornis, at which time even the most sceptical were considerably shaken and principally because sceptics, and notably zoological ones, simply cannot conceive of the amount of true wilderness that still exists everywhere. Then, a discovery was made right in this Takahe area that brought everybody up sharp.

This was reported in a splendid little booklet entitled Moas and Moa-Hunters by Dr. Roger Duff, Director of the Canterbury Museum and published by the Government Printer, in Wellington, N.Z. in 1957. Speaking of a tribal group of Maoris known as the Ngati-mamoe who were driven into these mountains about 1700, Dr. Duff states: "But not only the Notornis still lived in those mountains. In hidden valleys the fugitives encountered small groups of a small forest-dwelling moa (Megalapteryx) which had survived, like Notornis, long after the extermination of its fellows elsewhere. It is likely that the Ngati-mamoe rapidly destroyed the small colonies of Megalapteryx, but a doubt remains — some may have outlived the Ngati-mamoe, some may still survive." (Italics ours.) It is now stated that both the 1949 discovery — by a Mr. Ken Miers — and this new one are of the remains of this same Megalapteryx. The former discovery included some bones of a bird that had obviously been butchered and eaten and some of these were engraved with a series of very fine deep cuts that could probably have been made only by a metal knife. But Dr. Duff goes on to say of this: — "Even if the cuts were from a stone flake, the date could not be earlier than the early seventeen hundreds (why, is not explained) when the Ngati-mamoe fled there. By either reckoning, Megalapteryx was alive so recently that we must seriously regard the possibility of his (its) existence today." (Italics ours.)

The largest known extinct Moa (Dinornis maximus) stood over six feet at the shoulder and, if it carried its long neck aloft like the ostriches and its other living relatives, it would have been well over twelve feet tall. One would naturally like to corral such a creature but since it was a lowland, grass-grazing animal and simply could not survive in rugged, forested mountains this is more than just unlikely. Its little relative, this Megalapteryx, if found, would, as the excellent Dr. Duff points out, be rather a disappointment to the average person. It would be only about three feet tall and shaped much like the little Kiwi, but with a longer neck, a great broad bill, considerable bulk, and probably, as Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans has reconstructed it, have sort of "baggy pants" of primitive feathers reaching almost to the ground. Nonetheless, it would be nice to get a genuine moa, however small and ungainly, just to confuse the sceptics, if nothing else. And there is really no reason why we shouldn't, as those mountains are really

SOCIETY NEWS

(Operational Activities)

The Society is now engaged in a number of specific projects, in each case involving both search and research. Henceforth, these will be described briefly in this column but it is hoped that full reports will be published as Incidental Papers when each is concluded or has reached any definite conclusions on major aspects of the program. As of this time, these projects are: —

The Ringing Rocks. A special Committee was set up in July to study this phenomenon, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Richard Palladino of the Forrestal Research Center Plasma Physics Laboratories, Princeton; Mr. Ernest Fasano of Ceramics for Industry, Inc., Frenchtown, N.J.; Mr. Hans Stefan Santesson; Mr. Donald Godown, staff photographer of the Delaware Valley News; Mr. Jack Ullrich, as geologist; Mr. Emanuel Staub, Metallurgy; Mr. Adolph Heuer; Mr. Edgar O. Schoenenberger, for animal behaviour; Mr. William F. Peck Jr.; Mr. Campbell Connelly, of I.B.M.; and the Director, as coordinator. Dick Palladino is a physicist; Ernie Fasano a metallurgist; HSS is an historian and is investigating the folklore, and Bill Peck is in advanced optics, a field that, it transpires, is of particular significance in this work. As of the time of writing, a dozen fieldtrips have been conducted to seven of the locations; new "fields" have been discovered; X-ray and spectrographic analyses of the rocks have been initiated; aerial photography has been undertaken; and biological experiments have been set up.

Stone Spheres. This investigation has mushroomed through the activities of two members, Barney Nashold (87) who is currently in Central America, and Basil Hritsco (165) mentioned in our last issue as residing in Hornbrook, California. The latter has discovered enormous accumulations of what our more jocular respondents prefer to call "stone balls" in his area, ranging in diameter from ten feet to grains of the average size of granulated sugar. This is naturally what is called "ballbearing sand" which is very widely and massively distributed, and which brings an entirely new aspect to the matter. The fight is, as a result, now on between the geologists and the archaeologists, though there has not been any actual engagement as yet.

Mechanical Dowsing. It has been decided to set up a special committee for this also, as there has been considerable response to our mention of the matter in our last issue. A Mr. Mataria who first introduced the procedure to the U.S. Marine Corps has sent us a set of his papers and offers to cooperate. Prof. George C. Kennedy, our advisor on geophysics, has written extensive suggestions for refining any field experiments we may undertake, pointing out that there are laboratory facilities of enormous sensitivity for testing any gross positive indications we may obtain.

Paddlebugs. During the past summer we became greatly interested in a group of very strange and rather rare two-winged flies known as the Phantom Crane-Flies (Family Ptychopteridae). Observations on their method of flight, which combines 'helicoptering' with their small wings and 'swimming' with the six paddles at the tips of their legs, did not conform to the published descriptions. We applied to our sponsor (Member No. 1) who is one of the world's leading experts on both helicopters and biomechanics, since principles seem to be involved here that are definitely, as of now at least, unexplained, and which may therefore be classed as fortan. Said flies will be studied next year when they emerge, about late May; and we will attempt to make motion picture film of them in flight for detailed analysis.

Chain in Rock. In 1966 we sent a two-man team to the National Park area of northern Pennsylvania in the neighbourhood of Renovo to interview a gentleman there who had for years been issuing statements to the press about the passage of the famed Thunderbird of Amerindian folklore that is supposed to have had a wingspan of 30 feet. While there, Frank Graves (49) and Jay Blick (17) met the local fire chief who told them of a huge iron chain, that does not rust, embedded in a giant boulder up a creek in the hills. This is not just attached to the rock but appears to go right into it since more links have appeared as erosion has proceeded. This gentleman has pinpointed the location, and a group will be visiting the site. There are other curious items of human activity in the immediate area, including allegedly some petroglyphic inscriptions.

Oldest Plant. Also in Pennsylvania, only a few miles south of Harrisburg, there is a 'field' covered with a low bush called the Box Huckleberry. This is all one plant and does not seed but proliferates through its roots. It has been estimated by professional botanists to be some 13,000 years old and thus the oldest living thing known. The search is for the original center of this vast mass with a view to exploring that small location for any radio-carbon datable material that can be shown to be free of contamination. The lady who owns the property has extended an invitation to us through the mayor of the local township to investigate the matter. (Incidentally, we are also initiating a proper search for the largest living thing — among the giant Douglas Firs of the Tuba Creek area in British Columbia — some of which timber cruisers report surpass the Lowland Redwoods in height.)

(Administrative Affairs)

There have been two quarterly Board Meetings since the issuance of the last journal — Vol. 1, No. 4. These were chaired by Mr. Hans Santesson at the request of the President who was unable to attend due to private business commitments. More than a quorum was present at both meetings and all absent submitted proxies. These were only two in number in each case.

The meetings were as usual divided into two parts, a morning session for business, and an afternoon session for a survey of and report on operations. The issues brought up in the former are hereunder detailed by order of precedence and in accord with the procedure at these meetings. Items from both of these meetings are herewith combined without specification.

(1) Membership: The executive assistant to the director (MLF) reported a slow but steady increase in membership but pleaded for more effort on the part of members to raise the curve on the graph. It must be stressed that we adhere both to the old West African adage "Softly, softly, catchee monkey" and at the same time rule out any type of professional promotion. New members must come to us; not we go out after them, except by word of mouth and notably through our members. As we have said before, we want all potential members to be fully apprised of our intentions and to have, themselves, appraised our worth before joining. Therefore, we would ask you to turn to the inside of the back cover of this issue and consider whether you can help. Our principal objective is to raise the number of subscribing members — already not too far from the goal — to cover the cost of PURSUIT. Meantime, sponsors and visiting membership contributions are being applied to essential construction work and the maintenance of physical properties — see Establishment below.

(2) Administrative: Mr. Jack A. Ullrich kindly consented to take on the position entitled "Field Operations". He speaks several languages and travels all over the world for his own business and, since it is his own business, can undertake investigative trips that the other officers cannot, due to what we may call the more "sessile" necessities of theirs. By the same token, Miss Marion L. Fawcett, being a professional librarian and editor, and being resident at our research center, has taken over the position of librarian from a now rather long train of volunteers, and part-time paid professionals. (As one member said recently, "If search is our life-blood and research our lymphatic system, then our library is our skeletal structure and our files are our musculature." — He was an anatomist, of course!) Further, as to changes in personnel, Miss Charlene Connelly joined us in August on a voluntary basis and left in October to resume a technological course at college. She was of enormous help in that she ploughed into all the "dirty work", such as filing and pasting which, please believe us, is a ghastly chore but of the essence. Under administration also, two items were reported in. First, the composition of the Scientific Advisory Board, which is listed on page 1, and the establishment of a proper Editorial Board. The latter consists of Hans Stefan Santesson, longtime editor, anthologist, and writer, as Chairman; Peter G. Kamitchis, ditto, and with an equally outstanding background in these fields; Marion L. Fawcett, one-time editor of medical texts (for Lippincott); and the director. All other purely administrative matters concerned maintenance, and mostly on behalf of the establishment.

(3) Establishment: Despite opinions expressed to us, as related in the last issue, we consider this at the present stage of our development to be of first importance. It is all very well to try to run an intellectually orientated organization out of a refurbished back bedroom, and there are not a few who have succeeded in doing so to a truly astonishing success. However, small as we may be, we possess just too much material, and more is coming in all the time; and not only from day to day but in ever-increasing volume, and also in the form of offers of whole libraries. For instance, one such has been offered to us as a bequest, and its volume is really staggering — 300 feet of shelves in one of five categories alone! We have the land, and we have some 'housing' but we are bursting at the seams. Therefore, until we can get the new Research Center financed and built, we have to do what we can; and, we feel that it is our duty to report on what we are doing. (Perhaps some of you might hereby sympathize and really try to find help!) As we said in our last issue, finding places for 'stuff' in safe-keeping has become a sort of juggling game. Of the immediate possibilities listed in our last issue three at least have been implemented. With a most generous gift by founding member Edna L. Currie, safe storage space for periodicals is being constructed in the attic of the old house. Due to a new idea for certain technical procedures for our next year's research, the laboratory has been cleared and room made for certain experiments. This has resulted in a decision not to set up the other (cold) laboratory until next spring. Meantime we have also found space for still more floor to ceiling bookshelves to take the overflow of new textbooks and reference works; and the basement has once again been cleared and improved for the machine-shop — and don't for a moment think that this is not

essential, as we are a working organization. Finally, the Annex — a 60-ft by 20-ft concrete building — has a new concrete floor. Two thirds of this building is already almost filled with stored properties. The remaining area is to be lined and weatherproofed with a view to making it a library extension. But there remains the essential question of enhanced working space. The plans for this are now drawn but the price is still completely beyond us. Meantime, we ask those wishing to bequeath or house their collections with us to be patient, and just try not to die before we do get the proper fire-proof facilities erected.

(4) Land Use: A considerable amount of discussion, a great deal of thinking, and a lot of enquiry has gone into this aspect of our development during the past two years. The land rented by the Society from the Sanderson Estate — under a one dollar a year lease in perpetuo but renewable each year — constitutes a triangle of eight acres in a still isolated small valley. It is contiguous with considerably more acreage to the northeast owned by the Sandersons. This latter is composed of a large field of prime acreage, surrounded by a most curious flooded wood on one side, an ancient apple orchard now overgrown and choked on another, and an extensive wooded swamp on a third. The last drains into the shallow lake on Society property and thence into an 80-ft by 80-ft grass-verged swimming pond. The big field is farmed but the rest of the land is being left completely untouched with a view to recording growth succession as it returns to its original botanical constitution as far as it can after nearly three hundred years of human interference. The point of discussion has been whether to adopt the same policy for Society land or to continue to push the large lawn outwards to the periphery of its property, and do further landscaping, bush and tree planting, and construct another ornamental pond in front of the house. The consensus on two ballots is to adopt the first course and encourage natural growth and succession in conformity with the adjacent tract. This course has been that followed during the past three years and already the shallow pond has provided most interesting features which are being watched and studied by a group from Rutgers University. (In fact, in another two years it will have vanished and reverted to swamp.) Apart from the gardens and small enclosed plot in which herbs are grown, the only infringement of this policy is the experimental planting of certain North American exotics starting with a most interesting Umbellifer called by the Huppa Amerinds Ik Nish, discovered by Basil Hritsco (165), which grows in almost soilless rocky areas and provides two delicious spices derived from the young leaves and the huge parsnip-shaped roots.

(5) Publicity: In this field we have received the most extraordinary boost from Mr. Barry Farber (250) through the media of his late evening and all-night radio programs from Station WOR in New York. Apart from this, all press mentions and write-ups during the past half year have been on the "Ringing Rocks" and our activities thereupon — see above. We are not pushing publicity any more than we are promotion. We prefer to perform first and then offer our findings to the working press later in case they might see a story in it. At the same time, ARGOSY Magazine has been kind enough to give the Society's bye-line to the column that the director is doing for them as their science editor. This, we feel, is a dignified way of presenting our existence and activities to a wide audience of potentially interested people. Once again, let the facts speak for themselves.

(6) Publications: Several technical matters relative to PURSUIT were discussed at very great length at both meetings by the true experts of the Editorial Board, all of whom have practical experience of the printing trade also. Balancing costs against product and production, it has been mutually agreed, and seconded by the Board and by a poll of a number of other members, that the format of the journal remain as is, for now. However, it was also agreed that each year, starting in 1969, should constitute a new Volume, with four issues — as is shown on this cover. In accordance with general publishing policy today, we will endeavour to get each issue out at least a month in advance of the official publication dates, which are the 30th of January, April, July, and October.

(7) The Library: Thirty-four new books were received during this period; all 'separates' have been sorted, catalogued, and boxed. Sorting and transfer of the information files to large ringbinders is proceeding. There are still four file cabinets to come, and the new material received amounts to about a drawer per quarter. Board Member Jack Ullrich (123) rolled into the Research Center with a truck-load of books, including a first installment of a complete medical library. Then, in making room for reference works in the old house, we had to move about fifty feet of non-essential books to the Annex. Third, Marion Fawcett wants her library to hand; and, fourth, we — the Sandersons — have accumulated an overage of both reference and other books in our New York apartment and office. As a result, it has been decided to pool our resources and not only line, seal, insulate, and floor the 20 x 20 room in the Annex but line three of its walls with bookshelves. A heating unit is available and furniture to equip it as a library extension. Being lined with asbestos sheeting this will be fire-resistant so that we may start to accept further material that does not call for fully fire-proof housing.

CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY
(This is not a paid advertisement.)

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(Note: All fortune tellers are strongly urged to read or reread these collected works. Pliny has always been popularly regarded as some sort of 'nut' but he was actually the first science reporter and current discoveries have brought to light the fact that a lot of that which he reported on both the beliefs and the accumulated knowledge of the ancient and classical worlds is really quite incredible.)
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As to whether titles are actually "in print" (as is technically known in the trade), those interested should apply to their library for search in the two standard works Books in Print and The Cumulative Book Index.

We welcome recommendations of books from members; e.g. George Eberhart (32) suggested the acquisition of Middlehurst's Chronological Catalog, a truly fortune teller document.

MEMBERSHIP, MONEY, AND MATHEMATICS

To maintain our standards at the present level, a certain minimum number of subscribers is needed. As everybody knows, the item per item cost of a single issue goes down as the printing-run rises. However, we can publish with a really astonishingly low subscriber rate, so that — as long as we keep PURSUIT to its current size — this aspect of our endeavour is assured. Maintenance of the Society's work, other than publication of PURSUIT, has to be taken care of by other means.

However

WE STILL NEED MEMBERS

To this end, will you do the following: —

- (1) RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. This request is directed to all those who joined before June, 1968. (Those who joined since the end of that month were granted an extension to the end of 1969).
- (2) SEEK OUT NEW MEMBERS. Our Brochure, "Elaboration of Interests", and a limited supply of the most recent issue of PURSUIT will be sent on request.
- (3) GIVE A SUBSCRIPTION TO OUR JOURNAL as a birthday or other gift.
- (4) BRING US, AND "PURSUIT", TO THE ATTENTION OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARIANS, AND TO ANY SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITH WHICH YOU MAY BE ASSOCIATED.